MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA

IN 1956, I STARTED WRITING TETSUJIN-28 AND SINCE THEN I HAVE WRITTEN A LOT OF SCI-FI MANGA. EVERY TIME I FINISH ONE, I THINK ABOUT QUITTING SCI-FI AND WRITING A DIFFERENT KIND OF STORY.

BUT BEFORE TOO LONG, I FIND MYSELF WRITING ANOTHER SCI-FI MANGA

I GUESS I JUST LIKE SCI-FI MANGA.

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MARS 2

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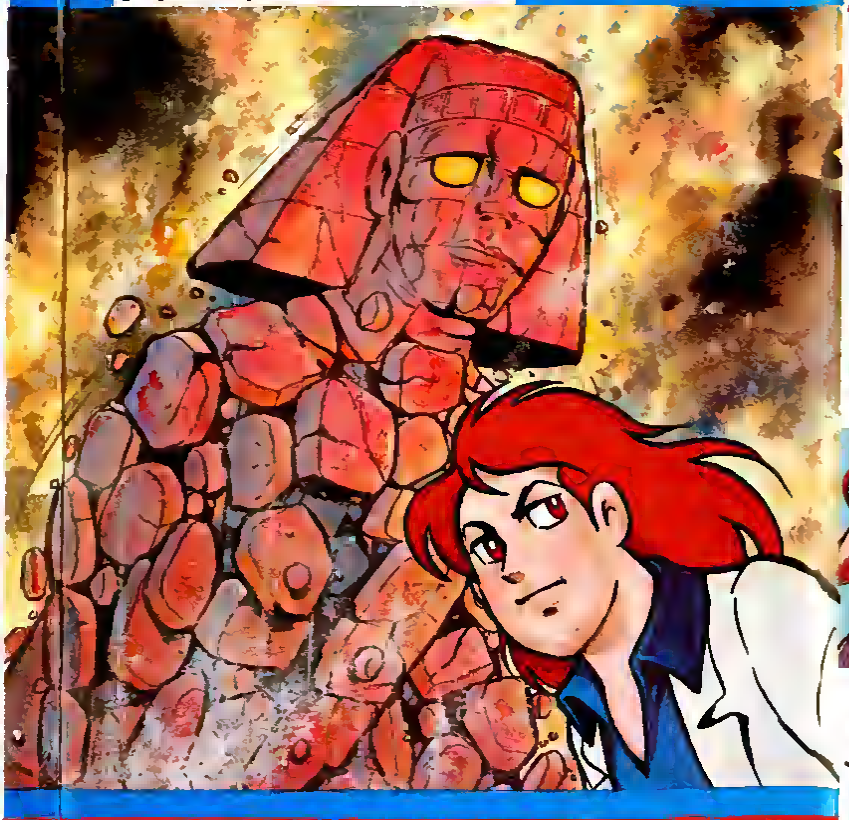

● Sci-Fi Comics ● Mitsuteru Yokoyama

★★★★

MARS 2

Mitsuteru Yokoyama

秋田書店

大人気発売中 少年チャンピオン・コミックス

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■佐藤宏之
プリースルーショクマン ①、②巻
気分はグルービー 全13巻

■池沢さとし
ミッドシップ隼 ①～⑧巻
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燃えてVシュート ①巻
■森村たつお
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■小林よしのり
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■山上たつひこ

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MARS

Volume 2

MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA

Shonen Champion Comics
(1976, Issues 21 - 29)

THE STORY SO FAR:

A MYSTERIOUS BOY WAS DISCOVERED ON THE NEW ISLAND OF AKINOSHIMA HIS NAME WAS MARS, AND HE WAS A BOY PROGRAMMED BY ALIENS, WHO FEARED THE CRUEL AND BELLIGERENT NATURE OF MANKIND, TO DESTROY THE EARTH IF HUMANS ATTAINED WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

GAIA AND THE SIX GODS, WHO WERE PROGRAMMED ALONGSIDE MARS, ALSO HAVE AWAKENED. MARS' GUARDIANS HAVE GIVEN HIM TIME TO DECIDE, AND NOW THE PROMISED HOUR IS DRAWING CLOSE...

MARS 2

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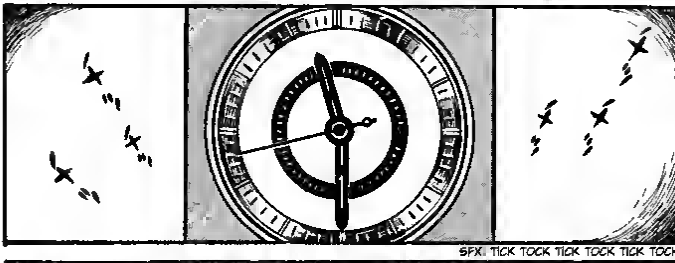
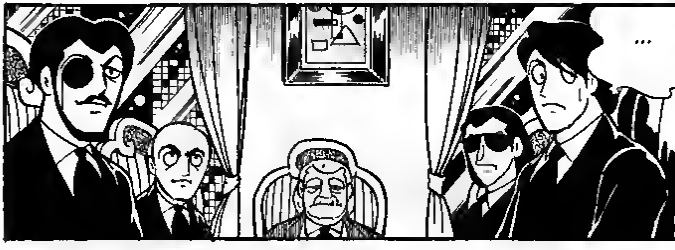
★TO THE RUINS OF EGYPT 190

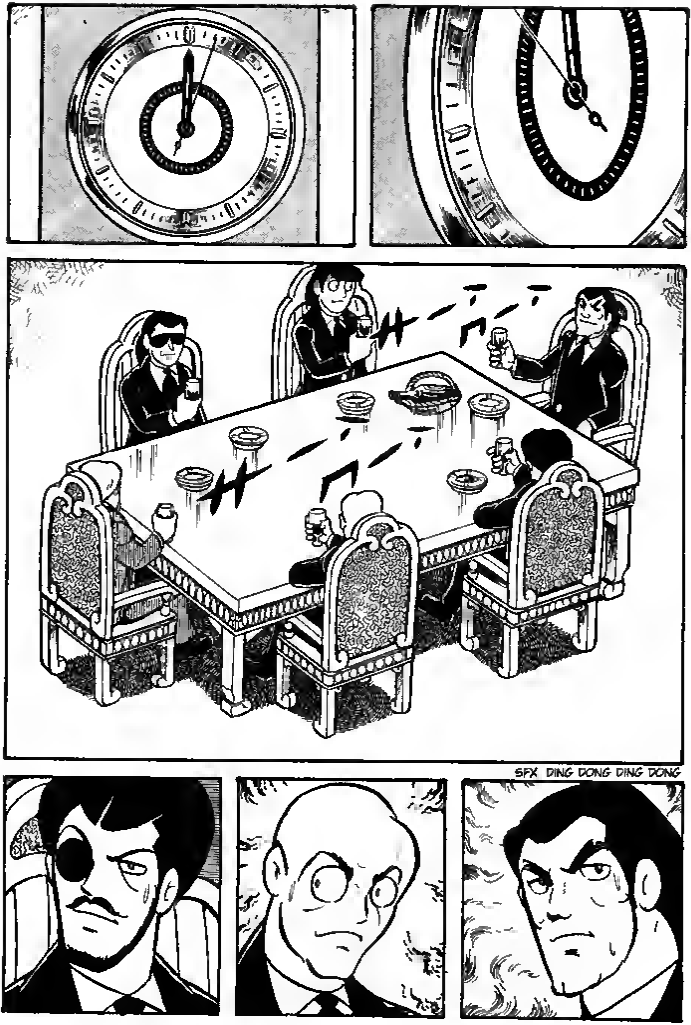
THE MYSTERIOUS WEATHER BALLOON



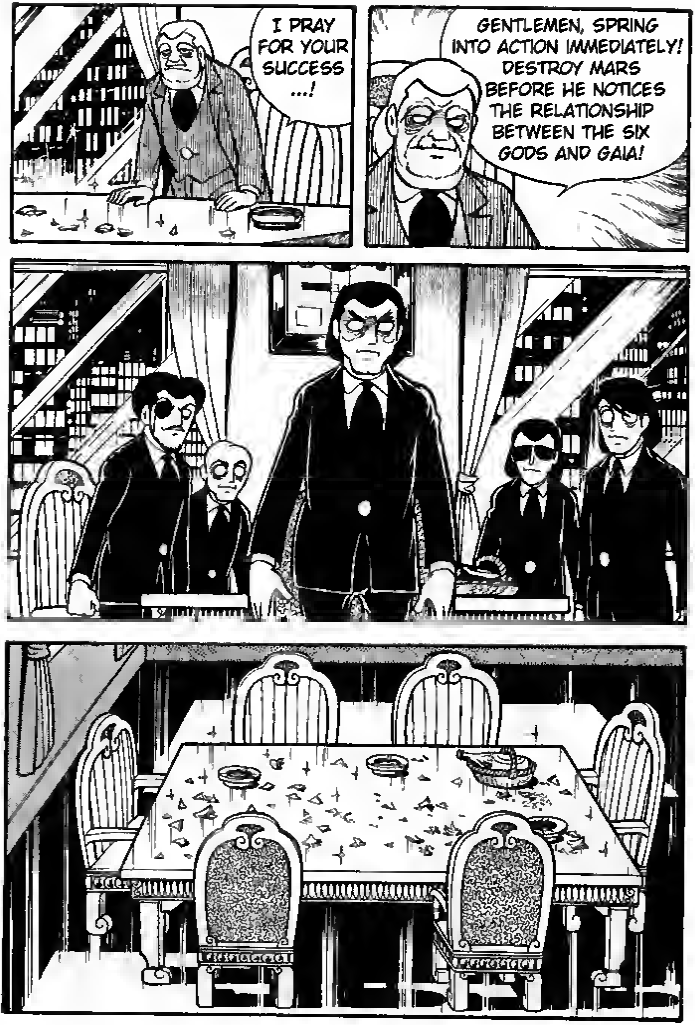


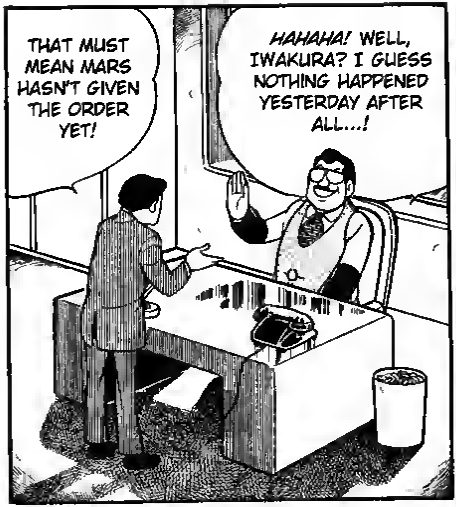
LOOKING BACK, WE'VE OBSERVED EARTH FOR A VERY LONG TIME...
ONLY THIRTY MINUTES LEFT...
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE MAKE A FINAL TOAST?
FINALLY, WE CAN BE RELEASED FROM OUR DUTIES.

SFX: TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
SFX: TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
NOW THEN... A TOAST TO THE COMPLETION OF OUR DUTY, AND TO PEACE IN THE UNIVERSE!

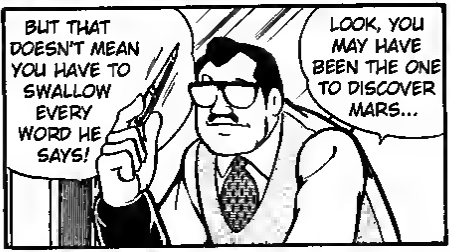

SFX DING DONG DING DONG

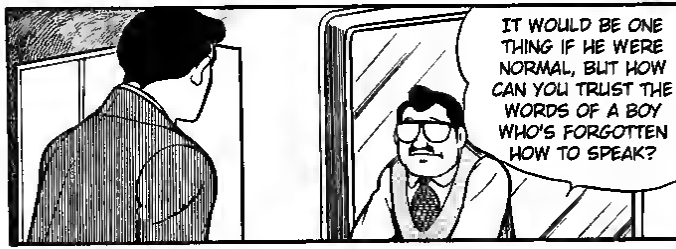
THEN THAT MEANS MARS HASN'T FULFILLED HIS DUTY ...!
IT'S ACCU-RATE!
ARE YOU SURE THAT CLOCK ISN'T BROKEN?
THEN WE SHALL FULFILL IT WITH OUR OWN HANDS!
SFX SHATTER
SFX SHATTER
SFX SMASH
SFX SHATTER
SFX SHATTER


I PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS ...!
GENTLEMEN, SPRING INTO ACTION IMMEDIATELY! DESTROY MARS BEFORE HE NOTICES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SIX GODS AND GAIA!


THAT MUST MEAN MARS HASN'T GIVEN THE ORDER YET!
HAHAHA! WELL, IWAKURA? I GUESS NOTHING HAPPENED YESTERDAY AFTER ALL...!

新聞
SIGN NEWS

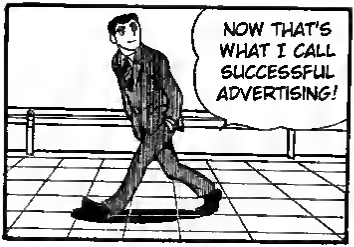

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO SWALLOW EVERY WORD HE SAYS!
LOOK, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THE ONE TO DISCOVER MARS...

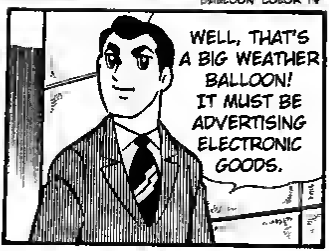

IT WOULD BE ONE THING IF HE WERE NORMAL, BUT HOW CAN YOU TRUST THE WORDS OF A BOY WHO'S FORGOTTEN HOW TO SPEAK?

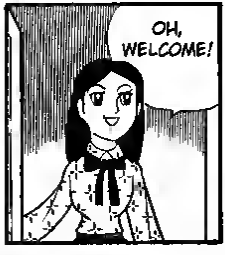
OKAY, THERE ARE STRANGE INCIDENTS OCCURRING. BUT WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT CONNECTS THEM TO THAT BOY?
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN TITAN OR GAIA... OR THESE STRANGE INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE ALL AROUND THE WORLD?
SO WOULD YOU PUBLISH ME IF I PROVE THAT IT'S ALL TRUE?
WE'RE A FIRST-RATE NEWSPAPER WITH A DUTY TO SOCIETY. WE CAN'T PUBLISH SPECULATOR ARTICLES!
HE MAY HAVE STRUNG THOSE INCIDENTS TOGETHER TO MAKE UP THAT STORY!
BUT IF I WERE YOU, IWAKURA... I WOULDN'T BE FOOLED BY THAT SILLY STORY.
OF COURSE! WE'LL REPORT ANYTHING IF IT'S TRUE.

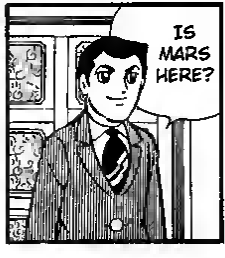
IT'S HOPELESS. NO ONE WILL BELIEVE MARS' STORY WITHOUT PROOF.
BUT... I DON'T BELIEVE MARS WOULD LIE.
HUH?

BALLOON COLOR TV

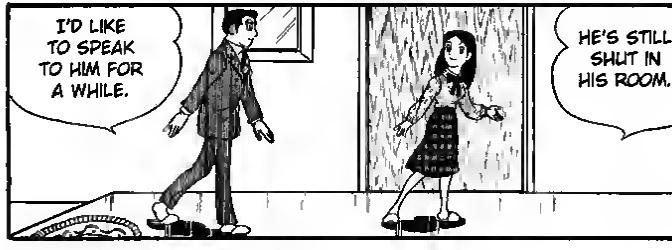





OH, WELCOME!


IS MARS HERE?

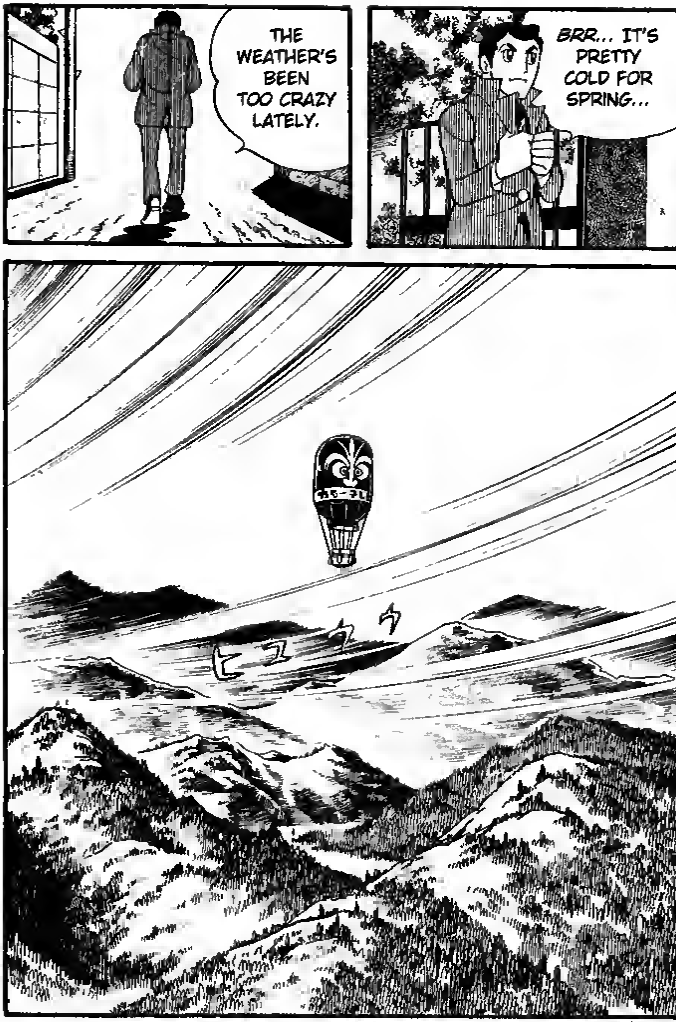
SFX: DING DONG DING DONG

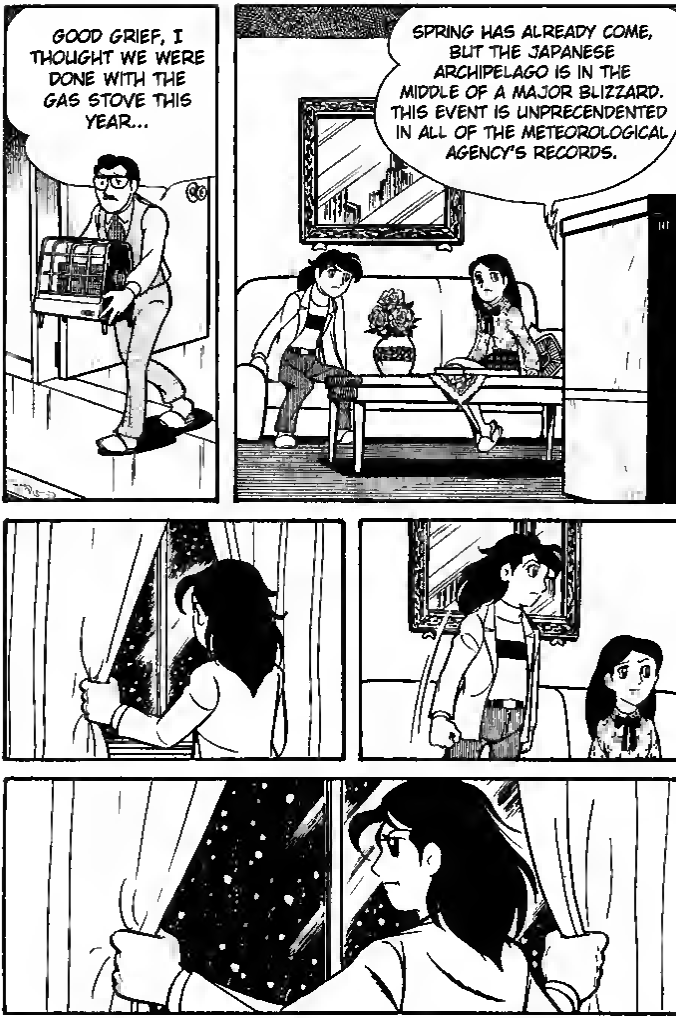

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HIM FOR A WHILE.
HE'S STILL SHUT IN HIS ROOM.

MARS, I'M GRATEFUL YOU DIDN'T GIVE THAT ORDER TO GAIA!
HI, MR. IWAKURA.
HELLO.
I DON'T BELIEVE I HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUST TAKE THE LIVES OF 3.9 BILLION EARTHLINGS ...
BUT HUMANITY HAS THE COURAGE TO RECORD THEM, AS A WARNING TO NEVER LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.
IT'S TRUE THAT THEY'VE EXHIBITED COUNTLESS ACTS OF CRUELTY.

BY THE WAY, I WOULD LIKE TO WARN EVERYONE ABOUT THE UPCOMING INCIDENT.
THANK YOU.
I DON'T BELIEVE HUMANS ARE AS BAD AS MY COMRADES SAY THEY ARE.
BUT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME WITHOUT SOME PROOF ...!
...YOU MAY FIND THE ROOM WHERE I WAS PROGRAMMED ON THE ISLAND OF AKINOSHIMA.
MARS, DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF THAT WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE?
AKINO-SHIMA...
BUT THE ENTRANCE WAS BLOCKED BY LAVA.

THAT'S WHY I'M WAITING HERE.
I DON'T KNOW.
BY THE WAY, ARE THE SIX GODS ON THE MOVE YET?
BE CARE-FUL.
WELL THEN, I'M OFF TO GO INVESTIGATE AKINOSHIMA.


THE WEATHER'S BEEN TOO CRAZY LATELY.
BRR... IT'S PRETTY COLD FOR SPRING...
ヒュウウ
SFX WHOOSH

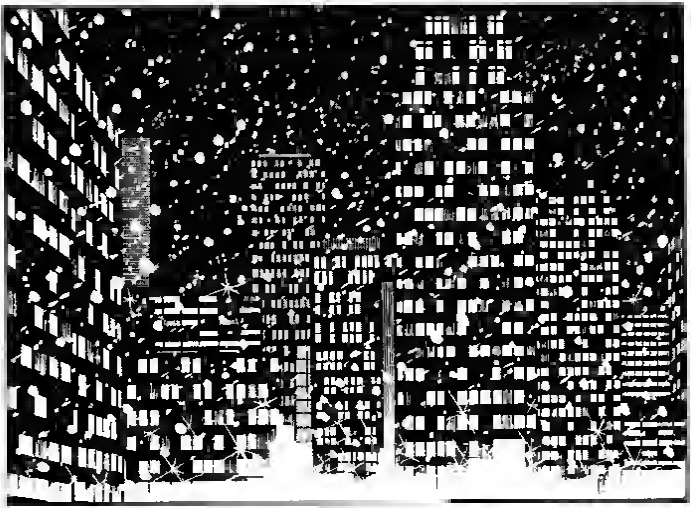

GOOD GRIEF, I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE WITH THE GAS STOVE THIS YEAR...
SPRING HAS ALREADY COME, BUT THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A MAJOR BLIZZARD. THIS EVENT IS UNPRECENDENTED IN ALL OF THE METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY'S RECORDS.

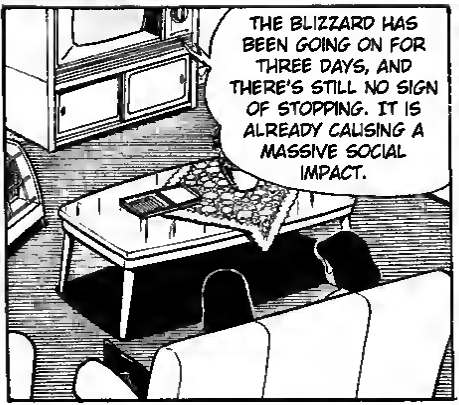
MT. FUJI METEORO-LOGICAL STATION.
HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW! IF THIS KEEPS UP, ALL OF JAPAN WILL BE COVERED IN SNOW!

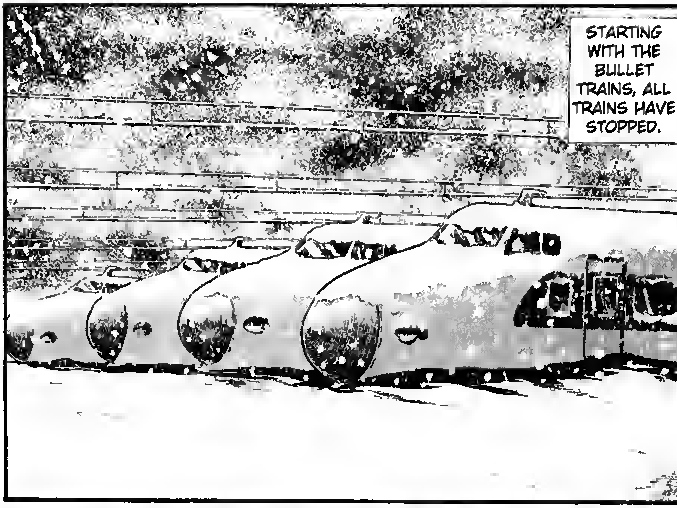
HMM?
IT'LL BLOCK UP TRAFFIC, AND EVEN STOP THE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND DAILY GOODS ...!
IF THIS GOES ON ANY LONGER, THE CITY WILL FALL INTO CHAOS!
HEY, LOOK!
カラーテレビ
SFX WHOOSH WHOOSH

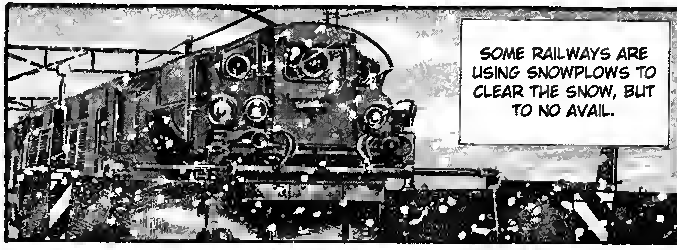
BUT HOW CAN THAT BE...?
THAT BALLOON'S STILL UP THERE!
AT ANY RATE, LET'S PHONE IT IN!
THE AREA AROUND MT. FUJI IS FAMOUS FOR ITS TURBULANCE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT A BALLOON COULD STAND STILL LIKE THAT!
HELLO ...?
IT'S NOT CONNECTING, THE PHONE LINES MUST BE BROKEN ...!
HELLO? HELLO ...!?

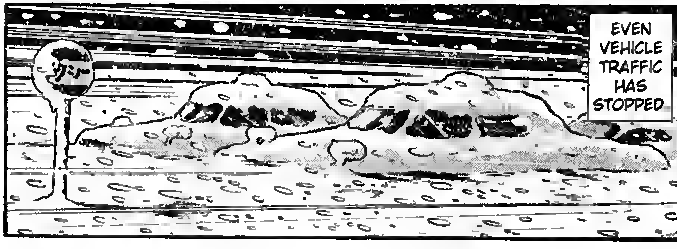
THE GOD URANUS




THE BLIZZARD HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THREE DAYS, AND THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF STOPPING. IT IS ALREADY CAUSING A MASSIVE SOCIAL IMPACT.


STARTING WITH THE BULLET TRAINS, ALL TRAINS HAVE STOPPED.


SOME RAILWAYS ARE USING SNOWPLOWS TO CLEAR THE SNOW, BUT TO NO AVAIL.


EVEN VEHICLE TRAFFIC HAS STOPPED
ブーン

ALL TRANS-PORTATION HAS BEEN OBSTRUCTED.
GROCERY STORES ...
FOR THIS REASON, FOOD AND OTHER DAILY PRODUCTS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL ARE GOING OUT OF STOCK.
...AND MARKETS ARE IN A DISMAL STATE, WITH NO NEW GOODS COMING IN.

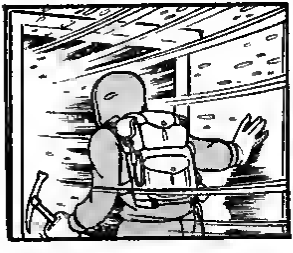
THIS IS REALLY SERIOUS ...
THE GOVERNMENT IS HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION. THE ENTIRE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO HAS BEEN PARALYZED.
IF THIS KEEPS UP, EVERYONE WILL RUN OUT OF KEROSENE, AND THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANY FOOD!
EVERYONE WILL EITHER STARVE OR FREEZE TO DEATH!
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS.

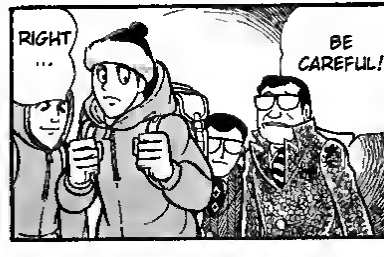
SFX: WHOOSH

SOMEONE NEEDS TO CLIMB DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TO GET HELP.

ALRIGHT! WE'LL GO.

WE'LL EITHER STARVE OR FREEZE TO DEATH...
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL RUN OUT OF FUEL AND FOOD!

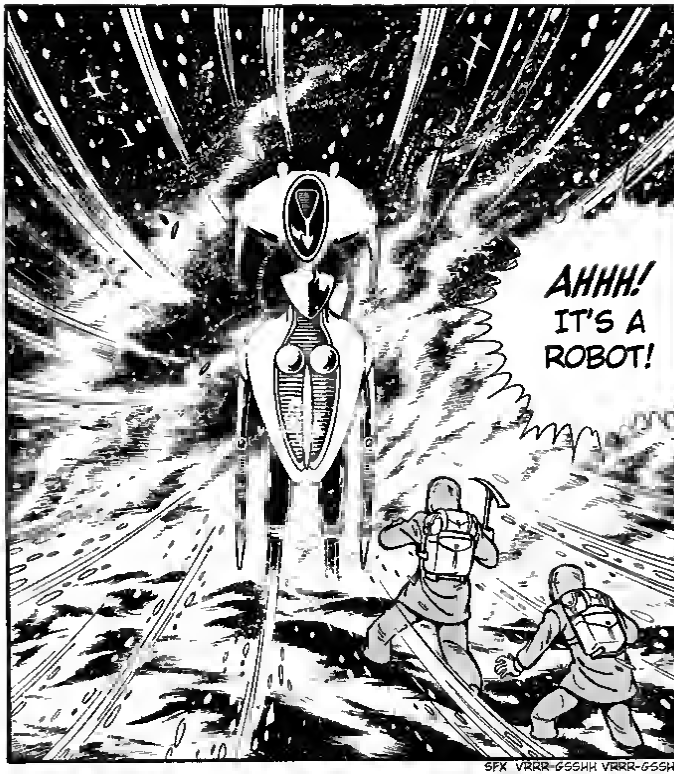


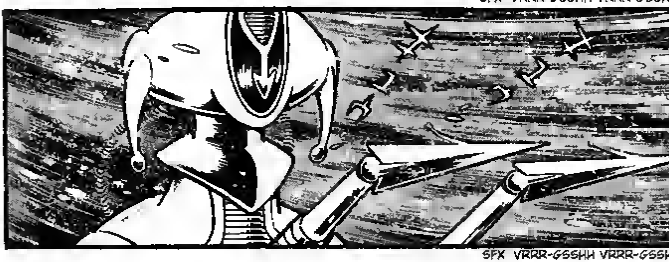

RIGHT ...
BE CAREFUL!

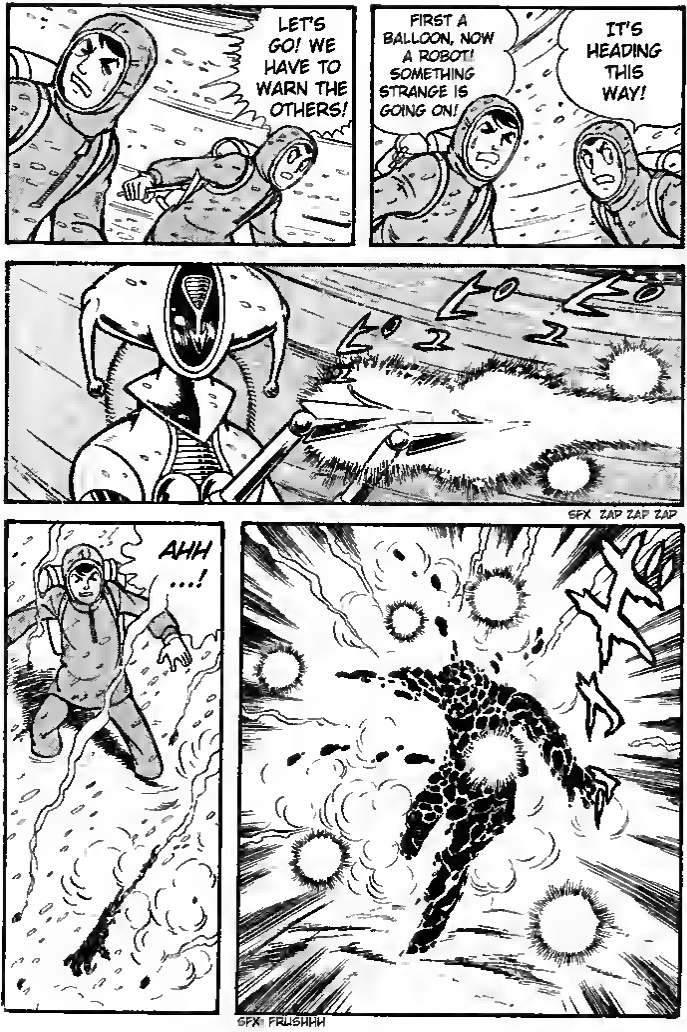
SFX WHOOSH WHOOSH
HEY! ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?
I'M FINE. I KNOW THIS MOUNTAIN WELL.
SFX WHOOSH

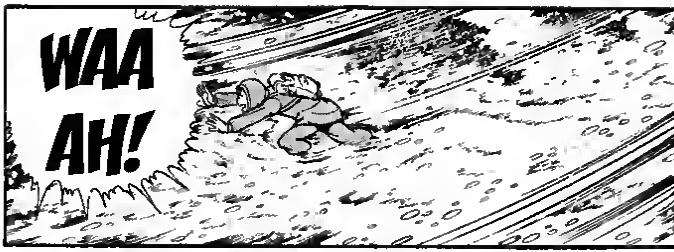
UH!
YOU SAID IT.
BUT, THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME!
ビュウウ
SFX WHOOSH
YOU ACTUALLY THINK SOMEONE WOULD CLIMB MT. FUJI IN THIS WEATHER?
I SAW SOMEONE JUST NOW.
WHAT IS IT!?
HEY! IS ANYONE OUT THERE !?
I'M SURE I SAW SOMEONE ...!

SFX! WHOOSH
WHO ARE YOU!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE!?
OHH!
LOOK! OVERE THERE!!
SFX VRRR-GSSHH VRRR-GSSHH

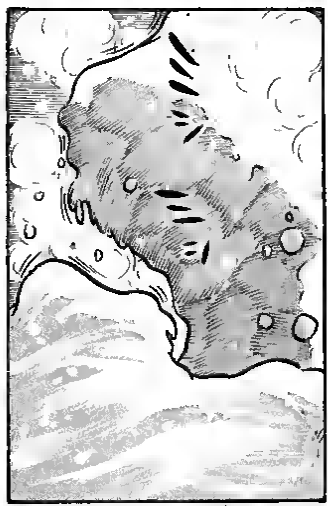

AHHH!
IT'S A ROBOT!
SFX VRRR-GSSHH VRRR-GSSHH

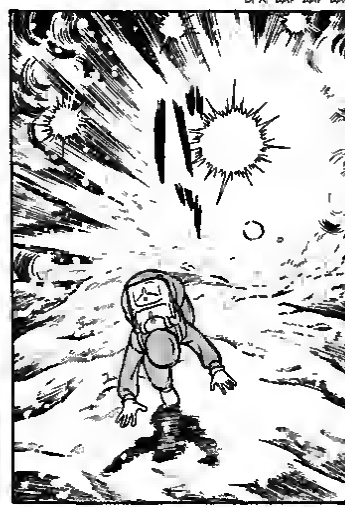

SFX VRRR-GSSHH VRRR-GSSHH


LET'S GO! WE HAVE TO WARN THE OTHERS!
FIRST A BALLOON, NOW A ROBOT! SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON!
IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!
SFX ZAP ZAP ZAP
AHH ...!
SFX FRUSHHH


WAA
AH!

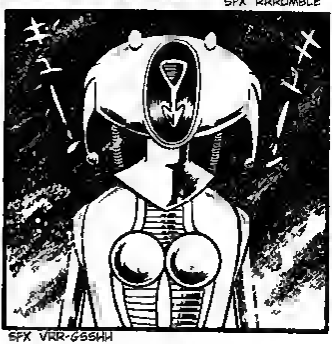
SFX: ZAP ZAP ZAP


SFX: CRACK CRACK

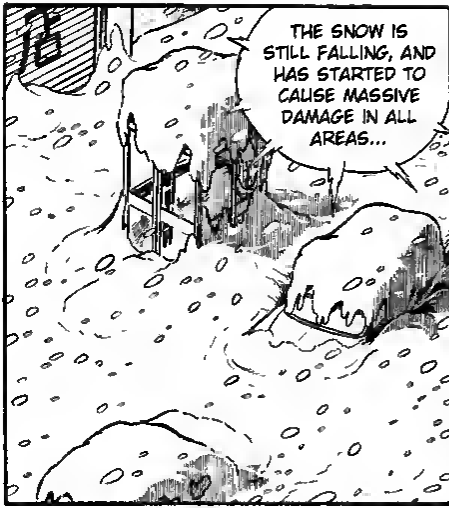

SFX: FLASH

SFX RRRUMBLE

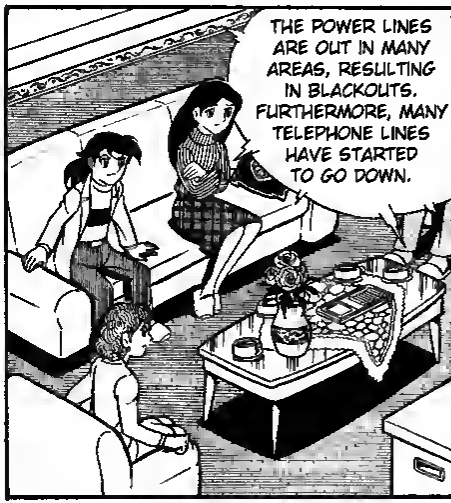
SFX VRR-GSSHH VRR-GSSHH

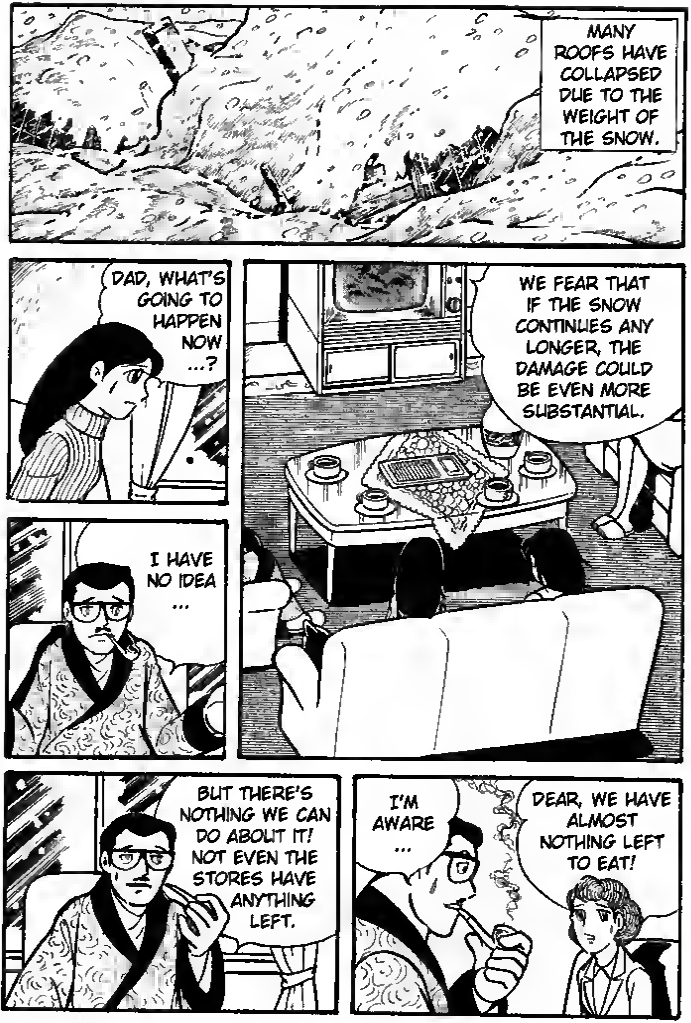


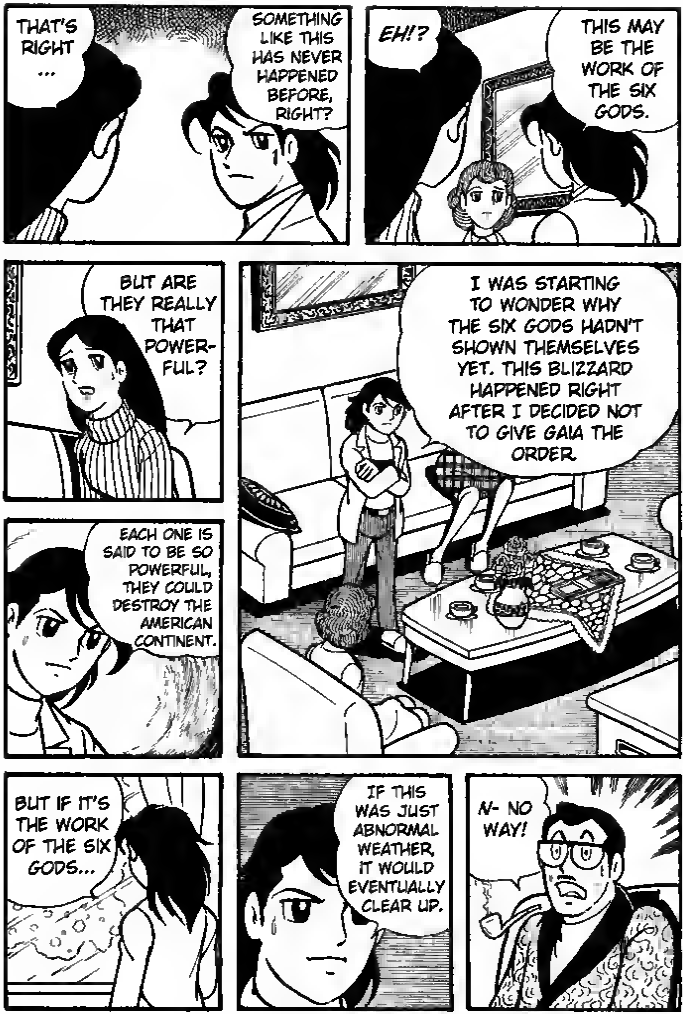
SFX VRR-GSSHH


THE SNOW IS STILL FALLING, AND HAS STARTED TO CAUSE MASSIVE DAMAGE IN ALL AREAS...

IN THE NEWS TODAY...


THE POWER LINES ARE OUT IN MANY AREAS, RESULTING IN BLACKOUTS. FURTHERMORE, MANY TELEPHONE LINES HAVE STARTED TO GO DOWN.

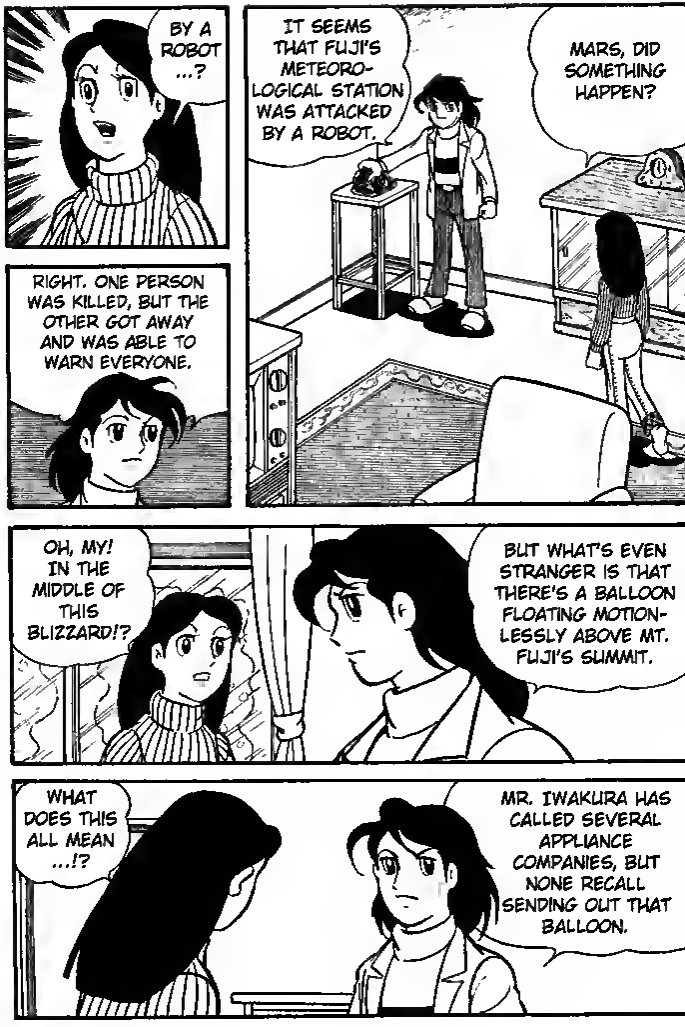

MANY ROOFS HAVE COLLAPSED DUE TO THE WEIGHT OF THE SNOW.
DAD, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW ...?
WE FEAR THAT IF THE SNOW CONTINUES ANY LONGER, THE DAMAGE COULD BE EVEN MORE SUBSTANTIAL.
I HAVE NO IDEA ...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT! NOT EVEN THE STORES HAVE ANYTHING LEFT.
I'M AWARE ...
DEAR, WE HAVE ALMOST NOTHING LEFT TO EAT!

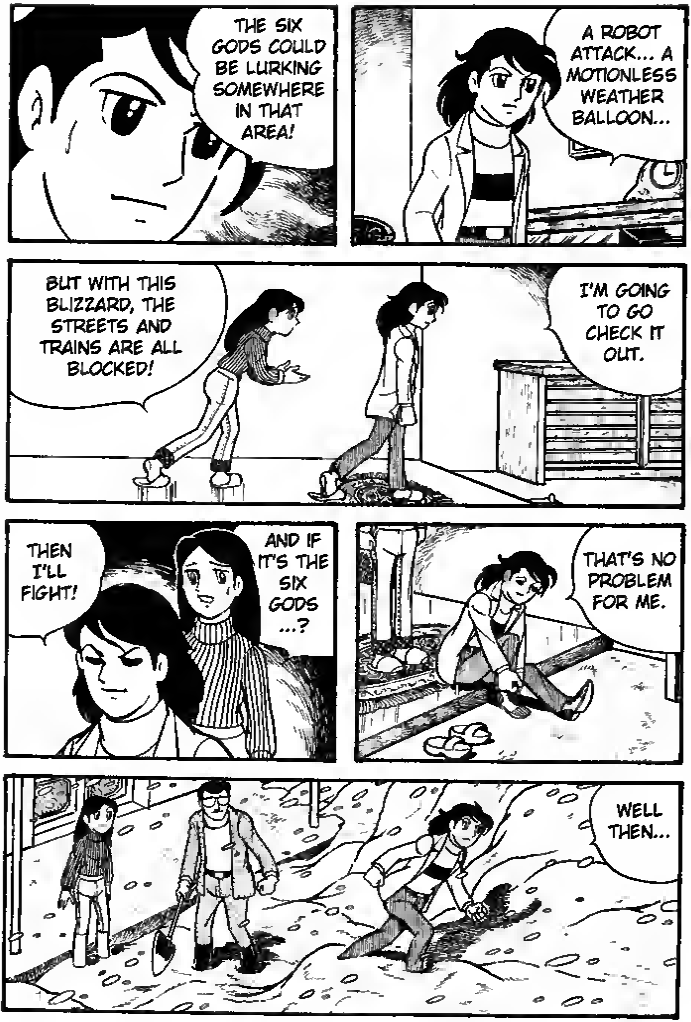

THAT'S RIGHT ...
SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, RIGHT?
EH!?
THIS MAY BE THE WORK OF THE SIX GODS.
BUT ARE THEY REALLY THAT POWER-FUL?
I WAS STARTING TO WONDER WHY THE SIX GODS HADN'T SHOWN THEMSELVES YET. THIS BLIZZARD HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER I DECIDED NOT TO GIVE GAIA THE ORDER.
EACH ONE IS SAID TO BE SO POWERFUL, THEY COULD DESTROY THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.
BUT IF IT'S THE WORK OF THE SIX GODS...
IF THIS WAS JUST ABNORMAL WEATHER, IT WOULD EVENTUALLY CLEAR UP.
N- NO WAY!

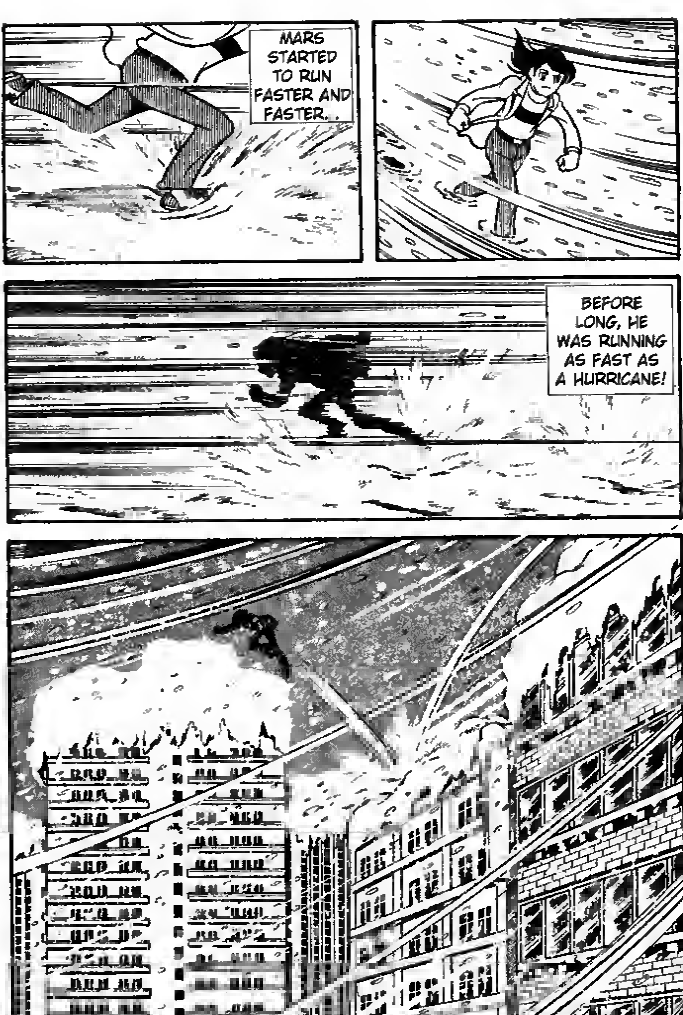
JAPAN WOULD BE DESTROYED ...!
AND IF IT DID...
THIS SNOW COULD KEEP FALLING FOR THREE MONTHS, OR EVEN SIX MONTHS... MAYBE MORE!
BUT IF THEY'RE BEHIND THIS, CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
YOU'RE RIGHT. WITH GAS, ELECTRICITY AND FOOD UNAVAILABLE, EVERYONE WOULD DIE OF HUNGER OR COLD.
ONLY IF I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE...
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO AN ENEMY THAT WON'T SHOW THEMSELVES!

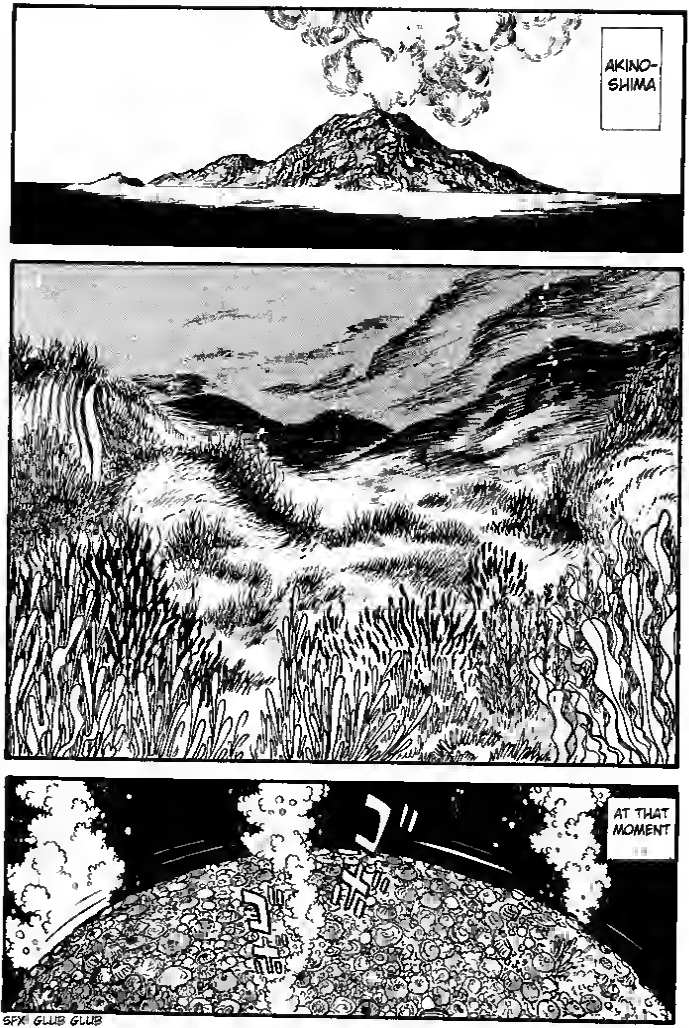
SFX: WHOOSH WHOOSH
UGH, NO MORE ...
HEAVE-HO!
HUH? DONE SO SOON ...?

MARS, MR. IWAKURA CALLED FOR YOU.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.
I HAVEN'T DONE HARD LABOR IN OVER TEN YEARS...
MR. IWA-KURA ...?
SFX. POP
HELLO? THIS IS MARS.
I SEE...
STRANGE NEWS? IT WAS SEEN AT FUJI'S METEORO-LOGICAL STATION!?


BY A ROBOT ...?
IT SEEMS THAT FUJI'S METEORO-LOGICAL STATION WAS ATTACKED BY A ROBOT.
MARS, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
RIGHT. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED, BUT THE OTHER GOT AWAY AND WAS ABLE TO WARN EVERYONE.
OH, MY! IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS BLIZZARD!?
BUT WHAT'S EVEN STRANGER IS THAT THERE'S A BALLOON FLOATING MOTION-LESSLY ABOVE MT. FUJI'S SUMMIT.
WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN ...!?
MR. IWAKURA HAS CALLED SEVERAL APPLIANCE COMPANIES, BUT NONE RECALL SENDING OUT THAT BALLOON.

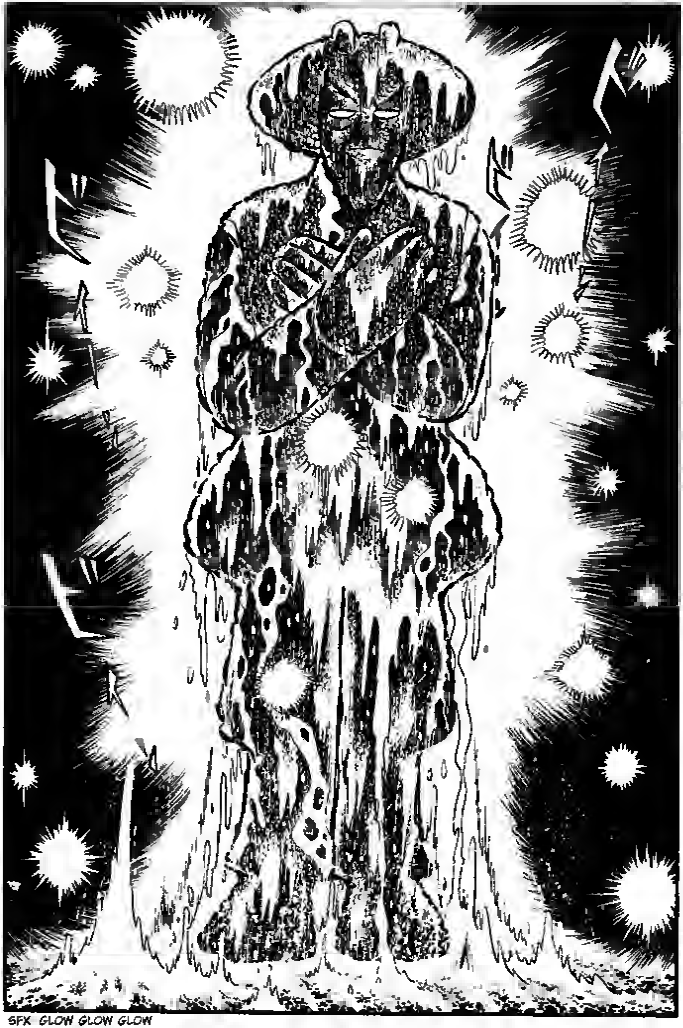

THE SIX GODS COULD BE LURKING SOMEWHERE IN THAT AREA!
A ROBOT ATTACK... A MOTIONLESS WEATHER BALLOON...
BUT WITH THIS BLIZZARD, THE STREETS AND TRAINS ARE ALL BLOCKED!
I'M GOING TO GO CHECK IT OUT.
THEN I'LL FIGHT!
AND IF IT'S THE SIX GODS ...?
THAT'S NO PROBLEM FOR ME.
WELL THEN...


MARS STARTED TO RUN FASTER AND FASTER...
BEFORE LONG, HE WAS RUNNING AS FAST AS A HURRICANE!


AKINO-
SHIMA
AT THAT
MOMENT
SFX: GLUB GLUB

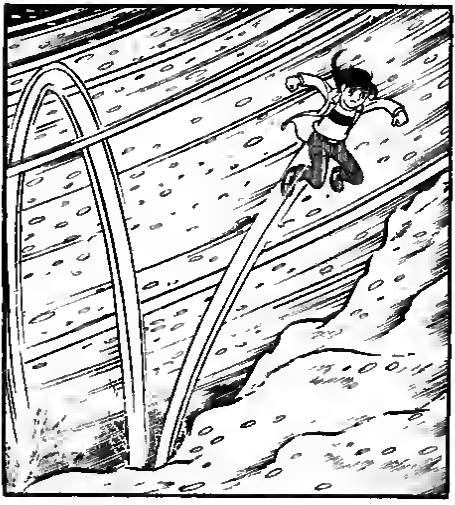
AS SOON AS MARS WAS ON THE MOVE
SFX: BRDOOM BRDOOM

GAIA ITSELF BEGAN TO MOVE.
SFX: BRDOOM BRDOOM



SFX GLOW GLOW GLOW

SFX: WHOOSH WHOOSH



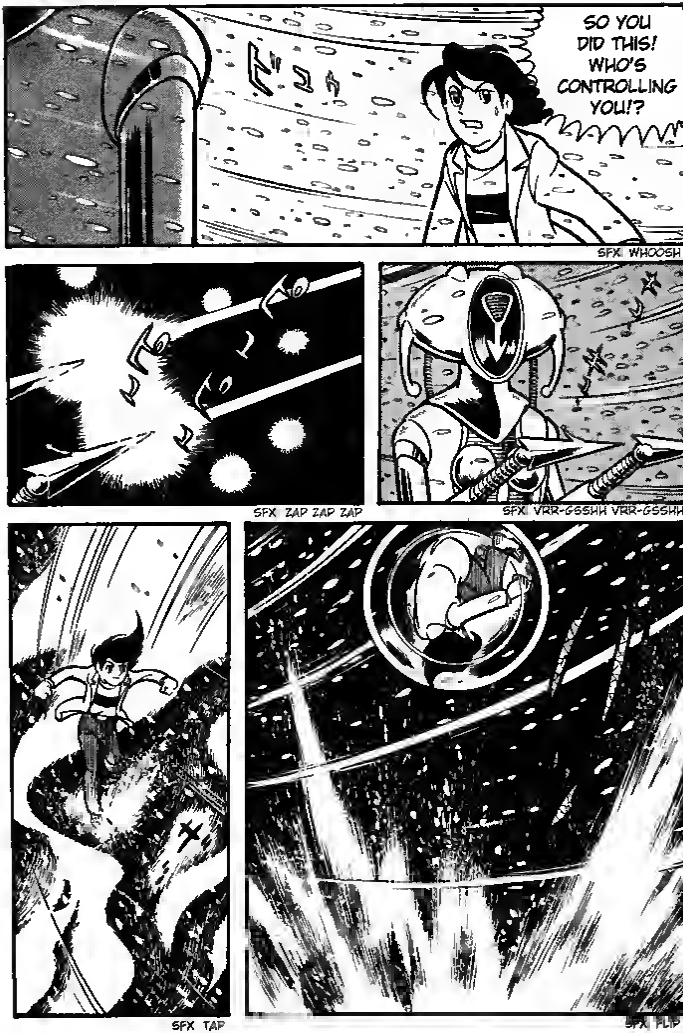
SFX: LEAP

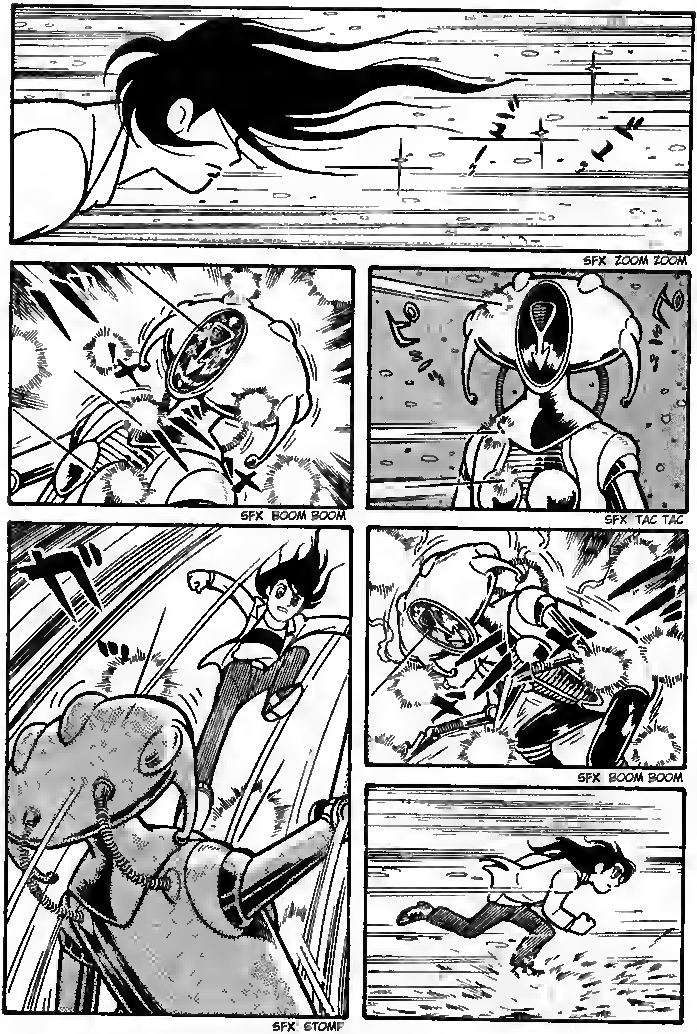
SFX: LEAP

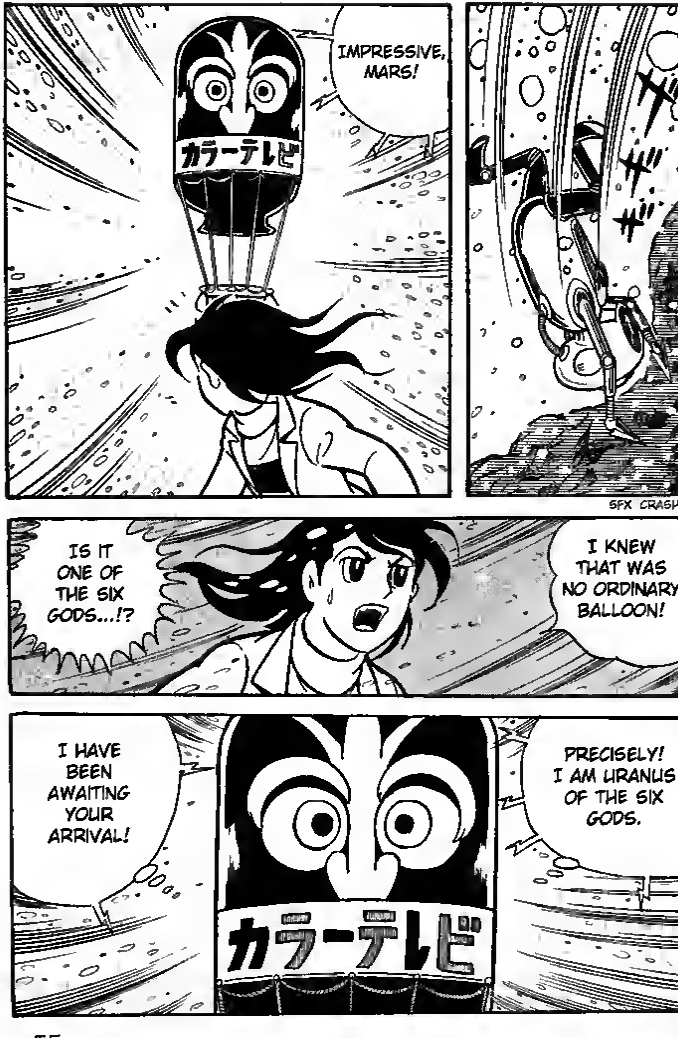
SFX SMASH
カラーテレビ
SO THAT'S THE BALLOON THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT! THEY WERE RIGHT... IT'S NOT MOVING!!
SFX WHOOSH WHOOS
BALLOON COLOR TV

HUH !?
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE JUST A BALLOON TO ME...
TH- THIS IS AWFUL! DID THE ROBOT DO THIS!?

IS THERE ANYONE STILL ALIVE ...!?
IS THERE ANY-ONE IN HERE?
HM!?
SFX VRR-GSSHH
SFX VRR-GSSHH VRR-GSSHH
OHH!
SFX VRR-GSSHH


SO YOU DID THIS! WHO'S CONTROLLING YOU!?
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: ZAP ZAP ZAP
SFX: VRR-GSSHH VRR-GSSHH
SFX: TAP
SFX: FLIP


SFX ZOOM ZOOM
SFX BOOM BOOM
SFX TAC TAC
SFX BOOM BOOM
SFX STOMP

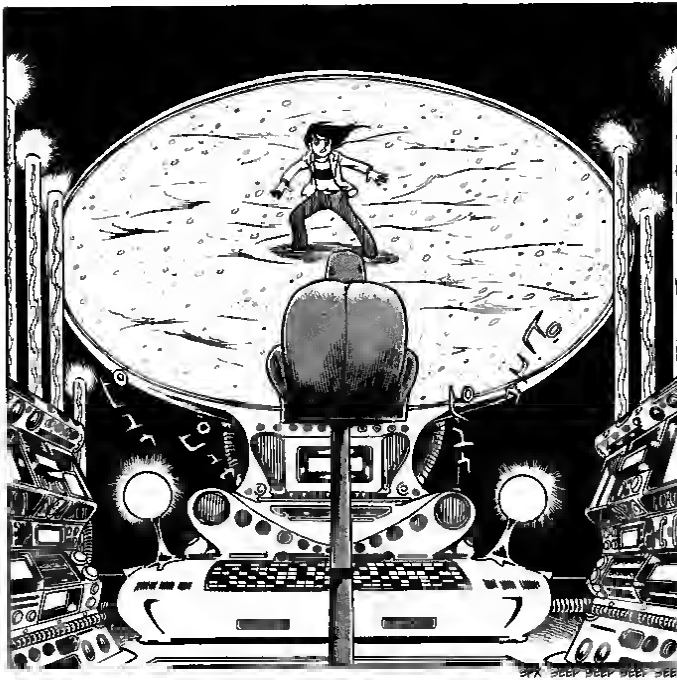

IMPRESSIVE, MARS!
カラーテレビ
SFX CRASH
IS IT ONE OF THE SIX GODS...!?
I KNEW THAT WAS NO ORDINARY BALLOON!
I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL!
PRECISELY! I AM URANUS OF THE SIX GODS.
カラーテレビ

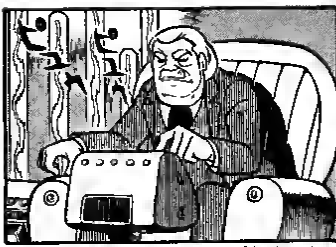
カラーテレ
EXACTLY. TO STOP IT, YOU MUST DEFEAT ME!
SO YOU CAUSED THIS BLIZZARD ...!?
IF YOU WON'T FULFILL YOUR DUTY, THEN WE SHALL!
WE HAVE NO NEED TO THINK OF THAT! WE ARE COMPLETING THE DUTY GIVEN TO US.
カラーテレビ
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!? HUMANS ARE WISER THAN YOU THINK!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE MUST KILL YOU IN ORDER TO DETONATE GAIA!
SFX: RIIP RIIP RIIIP

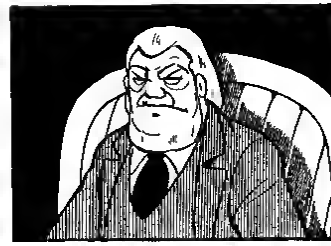
IF YOU WERE NORMAL, YOU WOULD KNOW THE FORM OF WE SIX GODS AND OUR POWERS...!
SFX: RIIP RIIP / SNAP SNAP
OHH! SO THAT'S YOUR REAL FORM!?

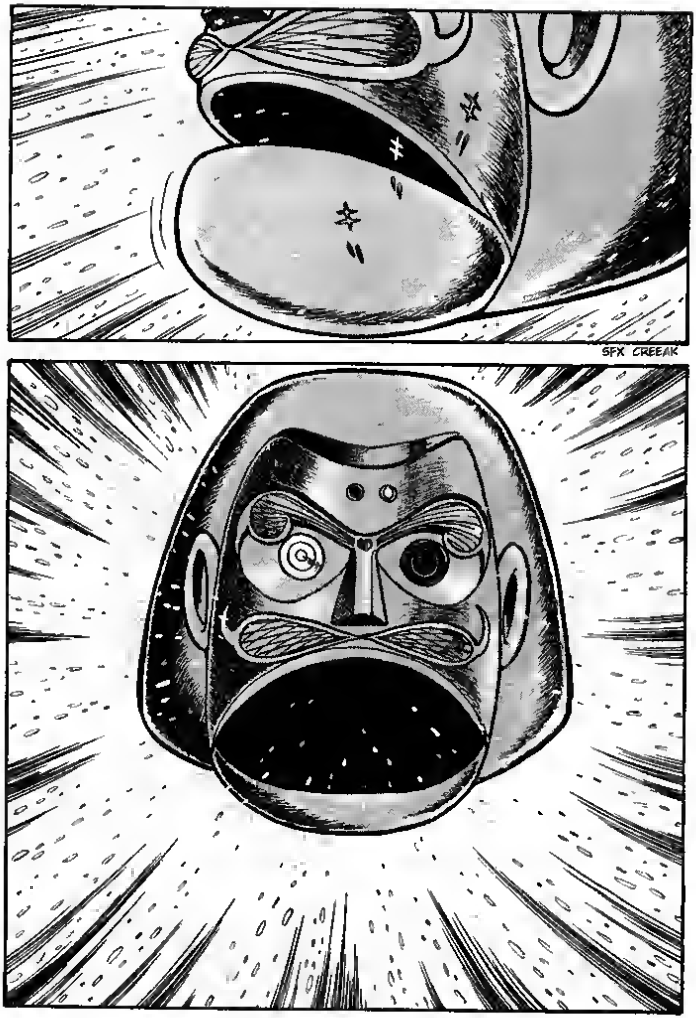
DIE, MARS! BECAUSE YOU ARE NO LONGER OPERATIONAL, YOU DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY!!

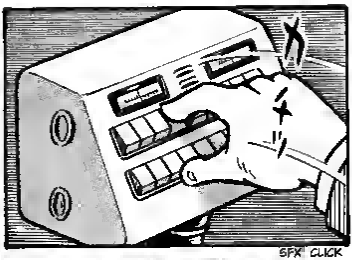
THE FIRST SHOWDOWN







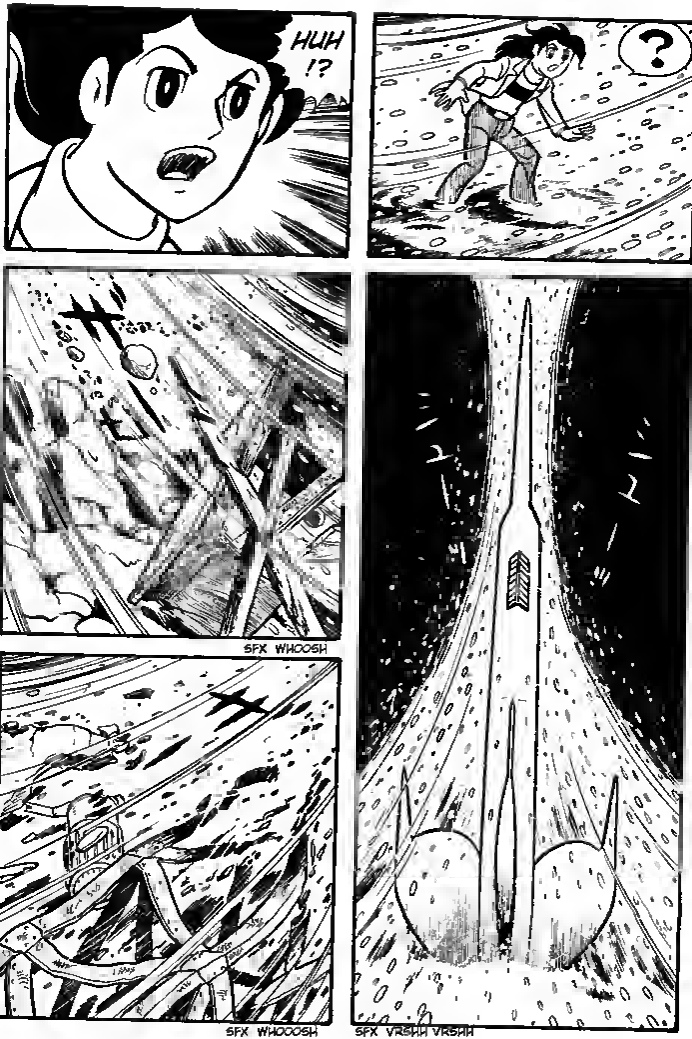

SFX CREEAK

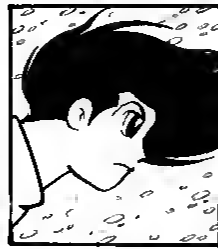

SFX CLICK

SFX BEEP BEEP BEEP

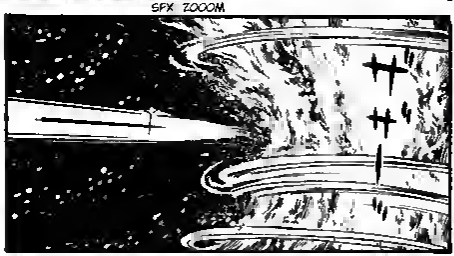
SFX BOOOM

SFX WHOOOSH

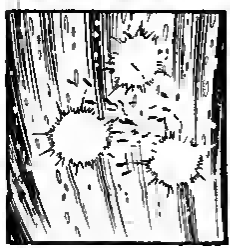

HUH !?
?
SFX WHOOSH
SFX WHOOOSH
SFX VRRHH VRRHH



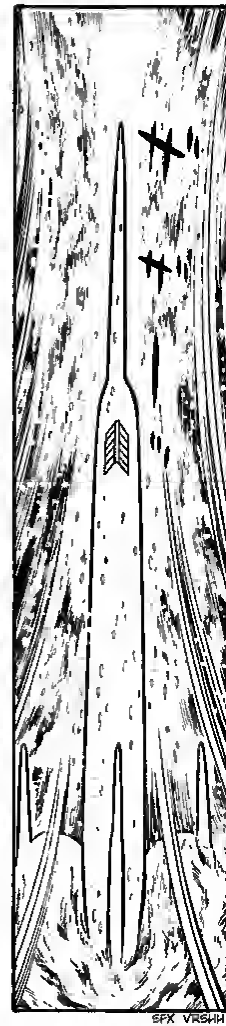
SFX ZOOOM



SFX: WHOOSH



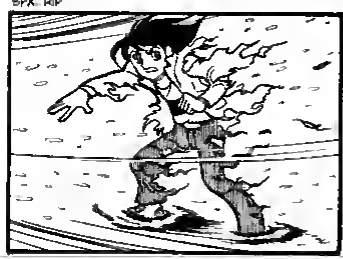
SFX CRACK CRACK



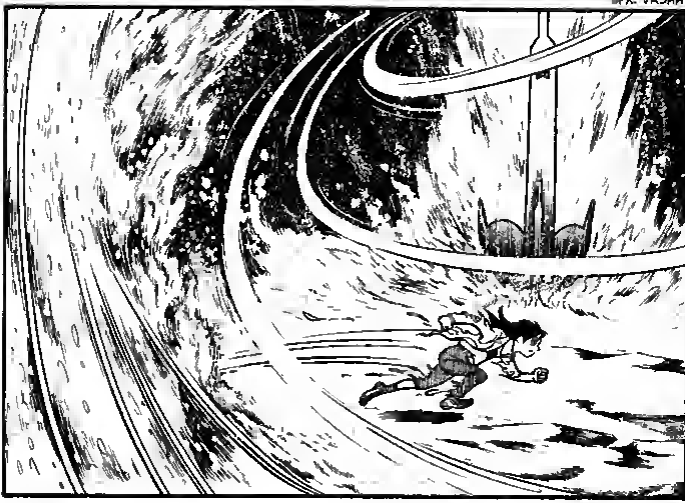
SFX VRSHH

I'D BETTER STAY BACK!
SFX SLAM
SFX WHOOSH

SFX. RIP

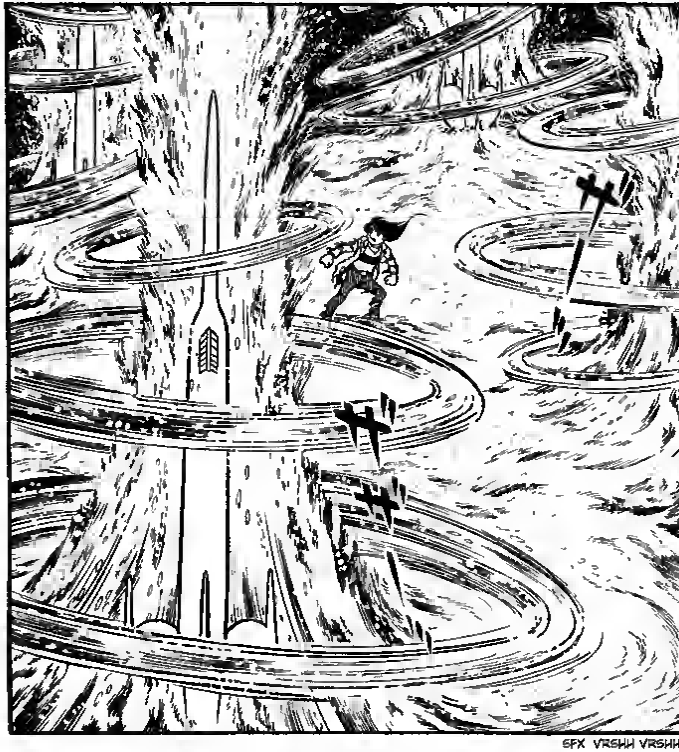


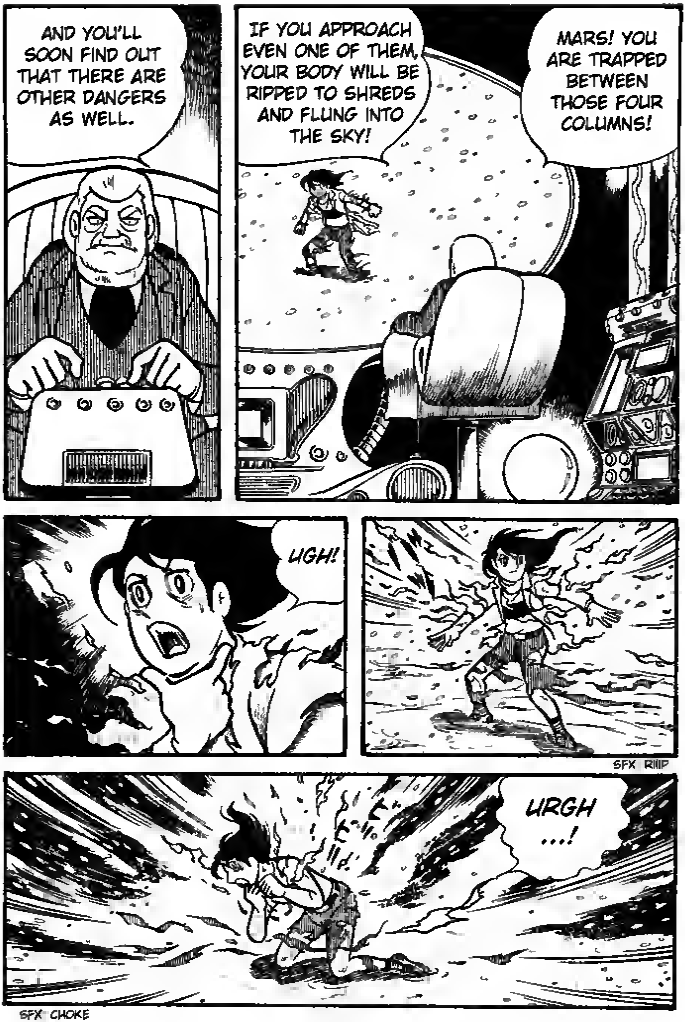
SFX. VRSHH

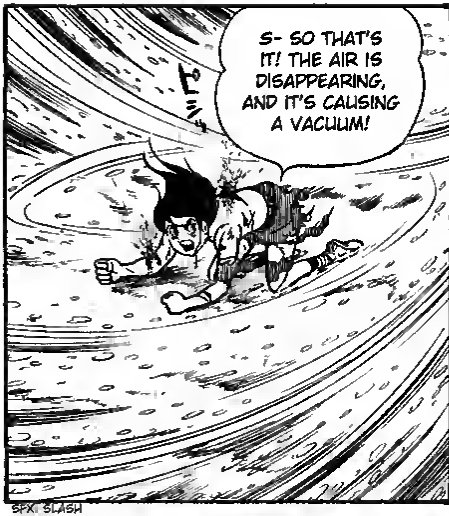


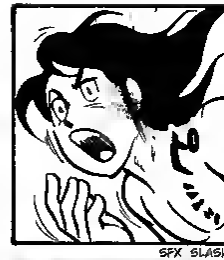
SFX SLAM
SFX WHOOSH
SFX WHOOSH

SFX SLAM

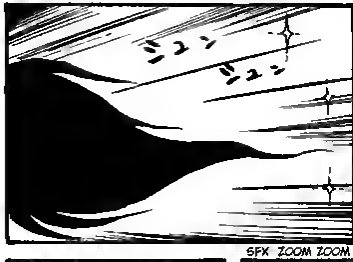

SFX VRSHH VRSHH

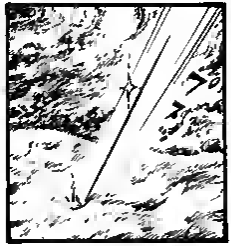

AND YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER DANGERS AS WELL.
IF YOU APPROACH EVEN ONE OF THEM, YOUR BODY WILL BE RIPPED TO SHREDS AND FLUNG INTO THE SKY!
MARS! YOU ARE TRAPPED BETWEEN THOSE FOUR COLUMNS!
UGH!
SFX: RIIIP
URGH ...!
SFX: CHOKE


S- SO THAT'S IT! THE AIR IS DISAPPEARING, AND IT'S CAUSING A VACUUM!
SFX SLASH

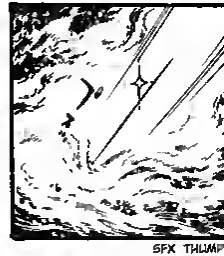

SFX SLASH

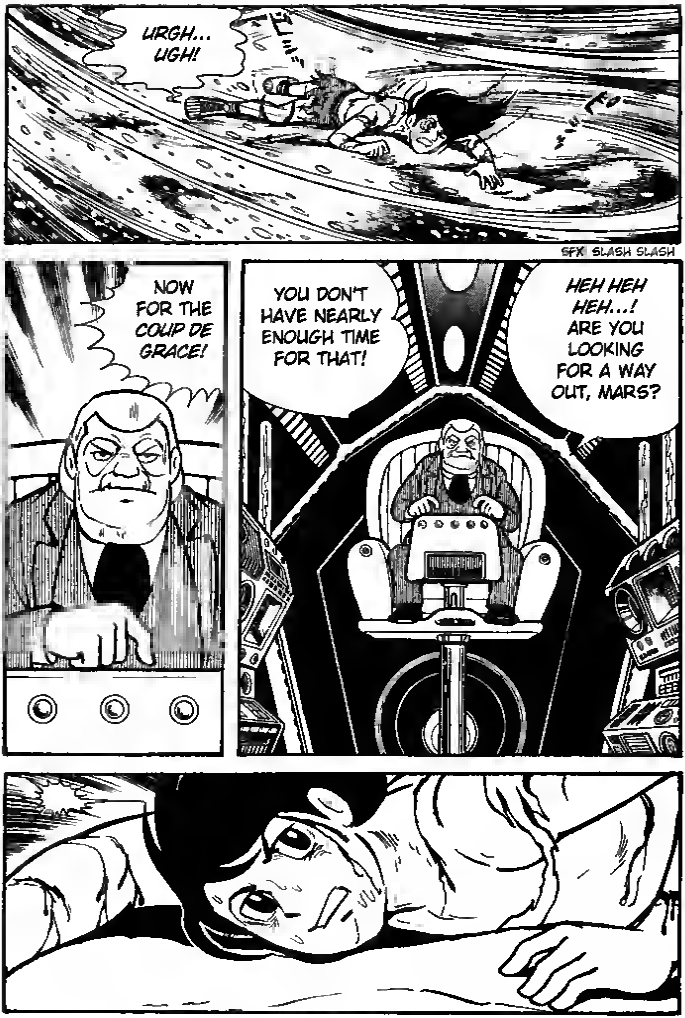
SFX SLASH

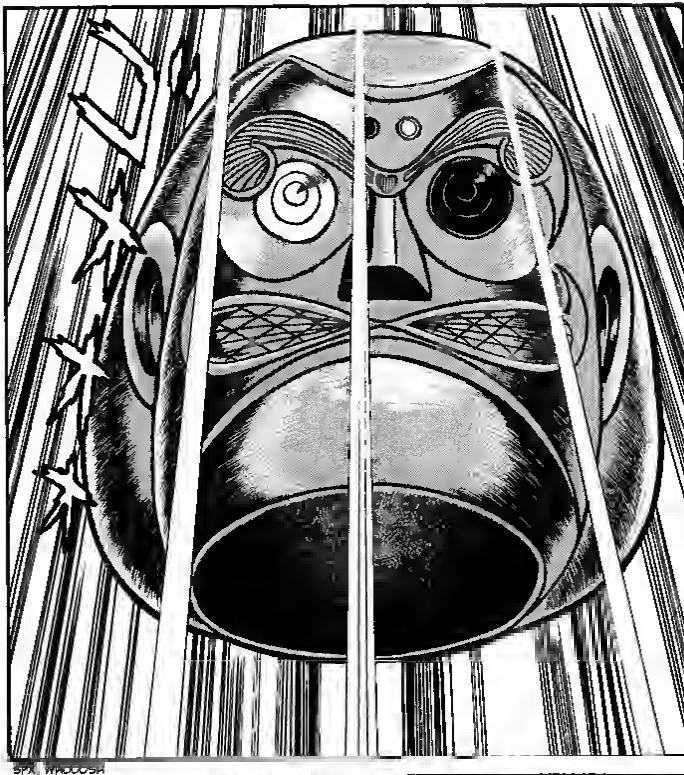

SFX ZOOM ZOOM


SFX THUMP

SFX THUMP

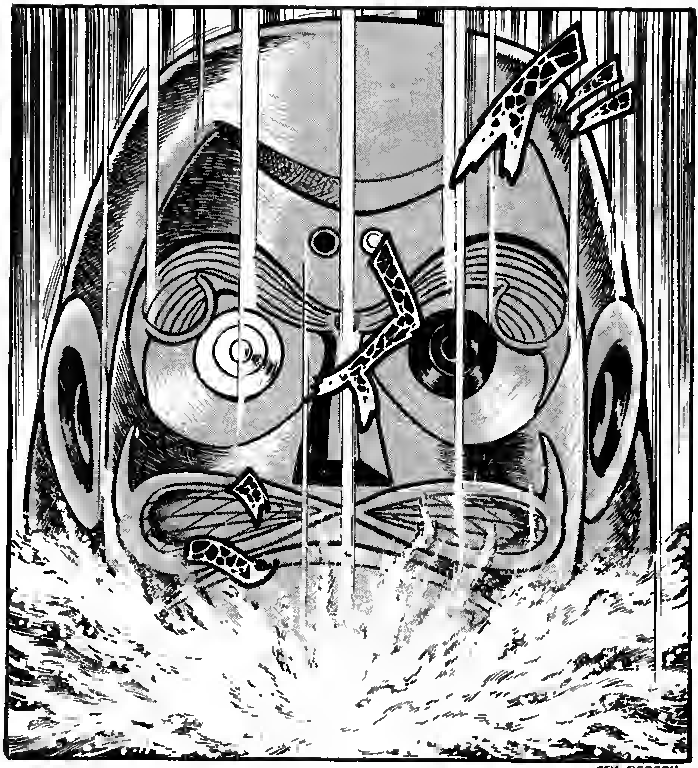

SFX THUMP

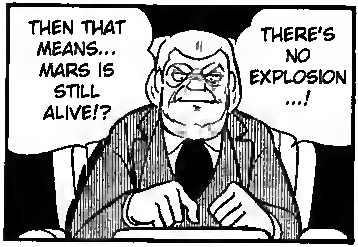

URGH... UGH!
SFX: SLASH SLASH
NOW FOR THE COUP DE GRACE!
YOU DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH TIME FOR THAT!
HEH HEH HEH...! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT, MARS?

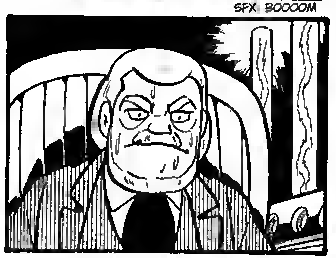


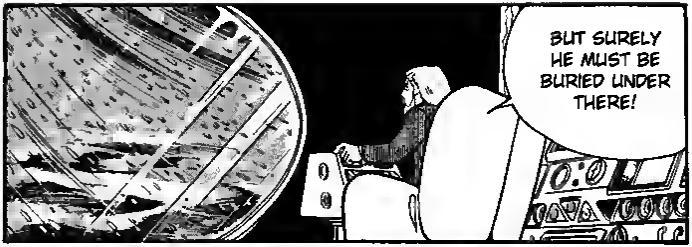
SFX: WHOOOSH

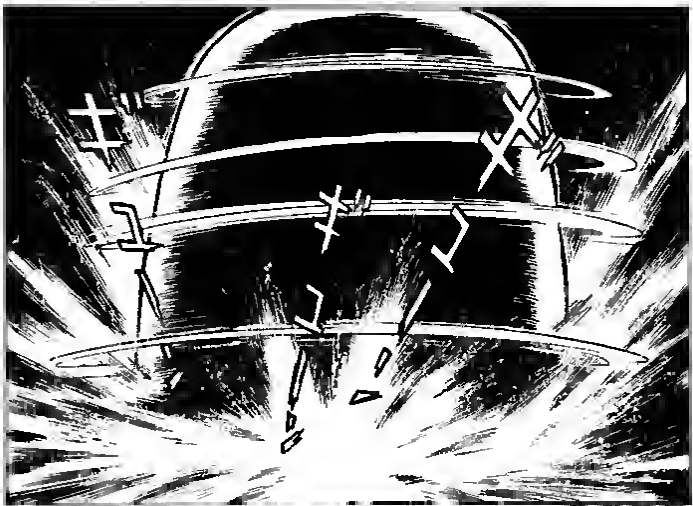
SFX: DASH

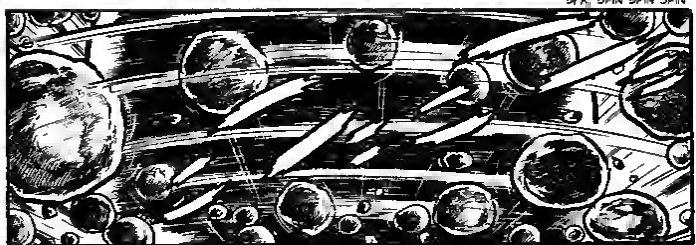

SFX: BOOOOM


THEN THAT MEANS... MARS IS STILL ALIVE!?
THERE'S NO EXPLOSION ...!

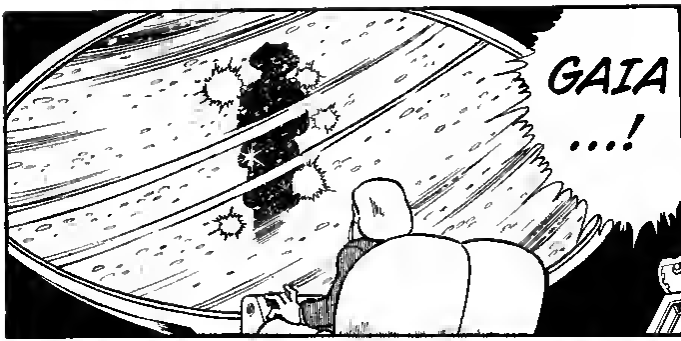


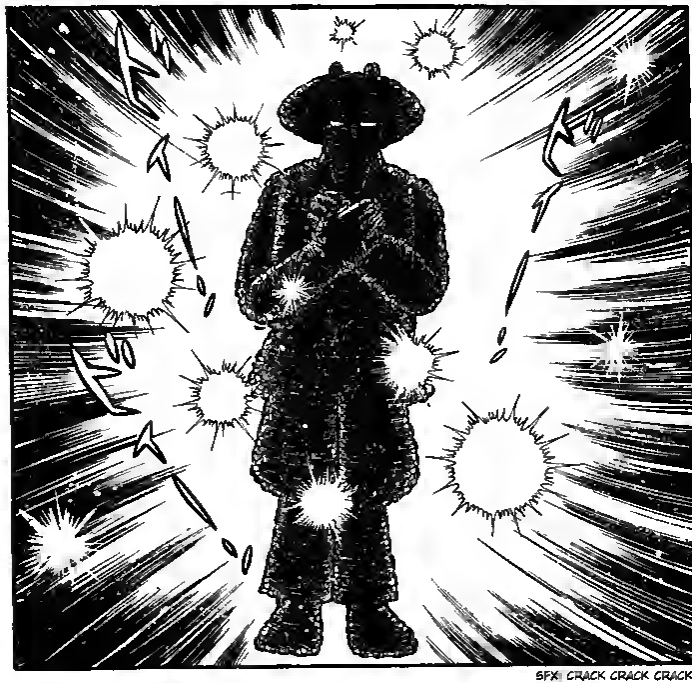

BUT SURELY HE MUST BE BURIED UNDER THERE!


SFX: BRM BRM BRM

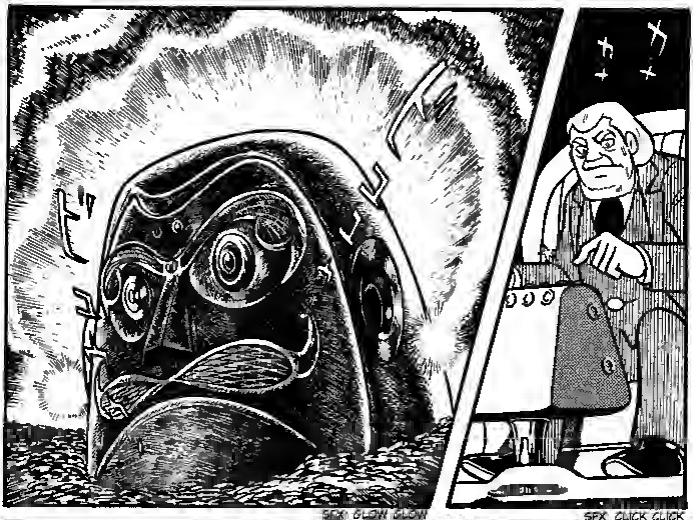

SFX: VRSHH VRSHH

SFX SMASH SMASH SMASH
HM!?
SFX BROOOM BROOOM
OHH!
THERE'S SOMETHING APPROACHING ...!
SFX CLICK CLICK



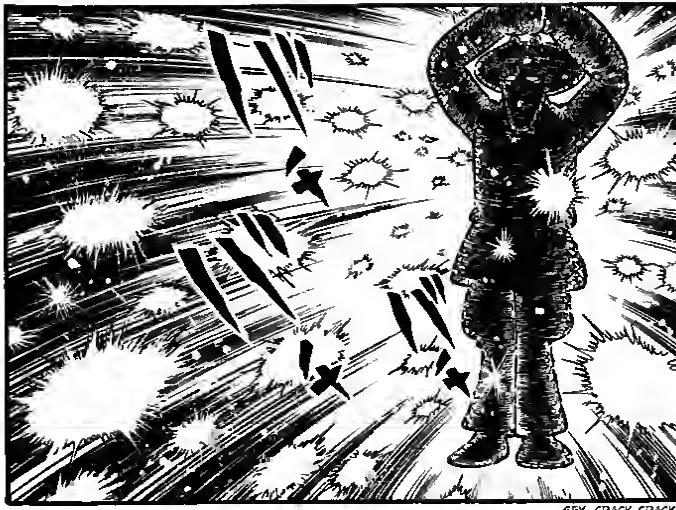


SFX: CRACK CRACK CRACK

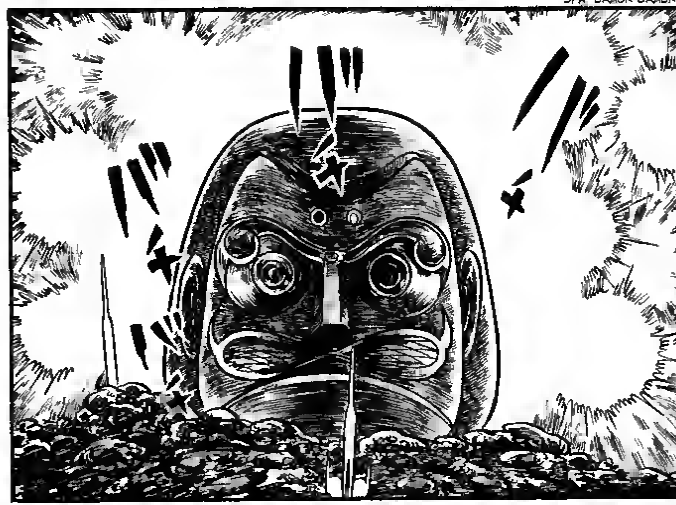

SFX: BLOW BLOW
SFX: CLICK CLICK

SFX: CRACK CRACK

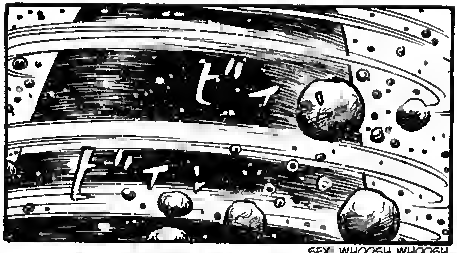
SFX: CRACK CRACK



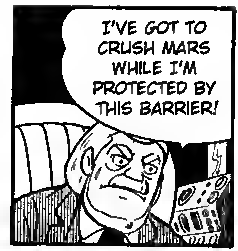
SFX: CRACK CRACK



SFX: CRACK CRACK CRACK

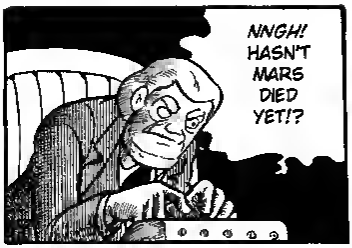


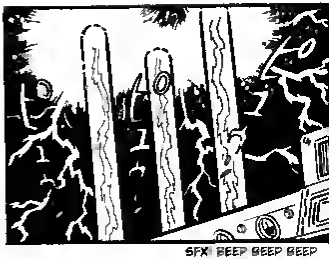
SFX: WHOOSH WHOOSH



SFX: CRACK CRACK

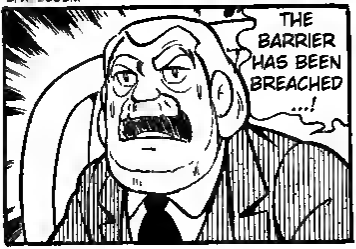
SFX: CRACK CRACK CRACK

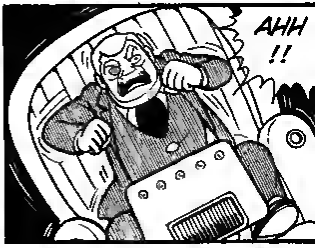


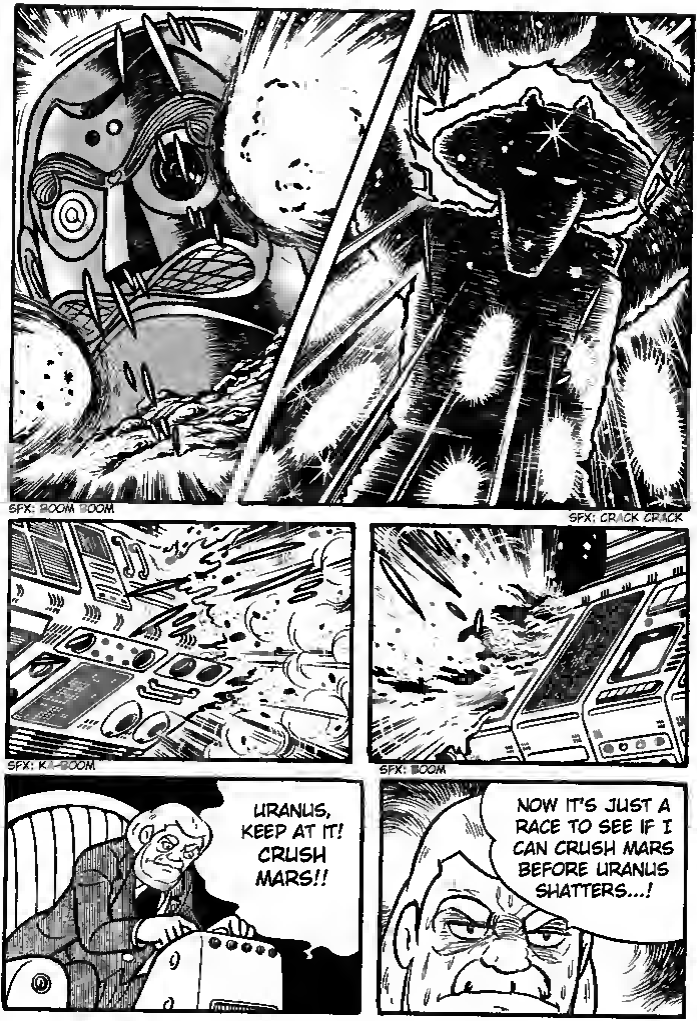


SFX: BEEP BEEP BEEP

SFX: BOOOM

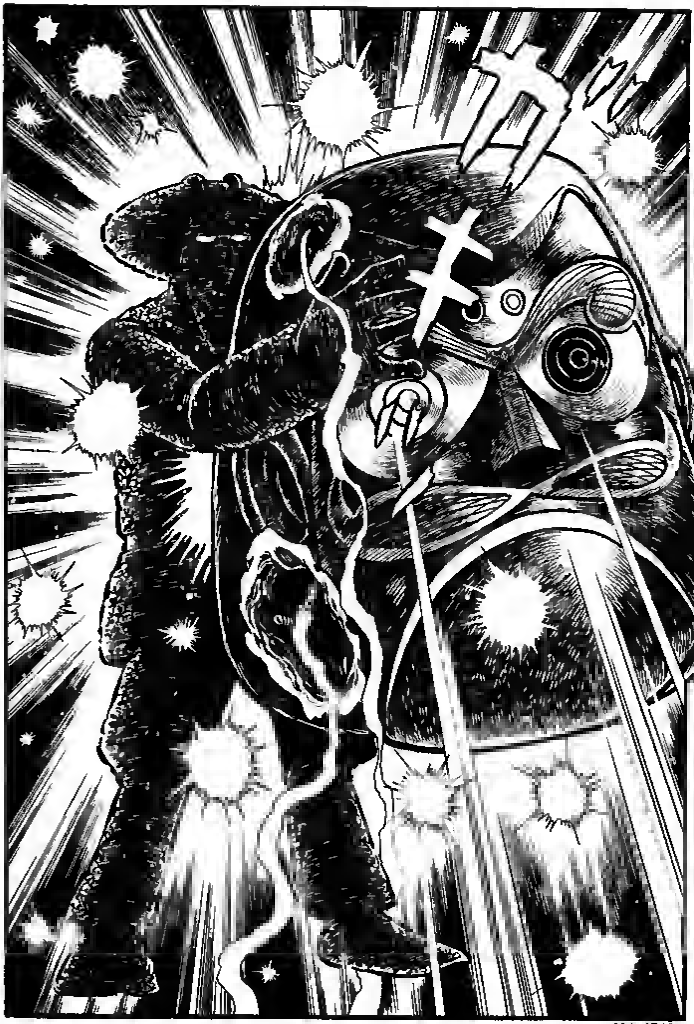




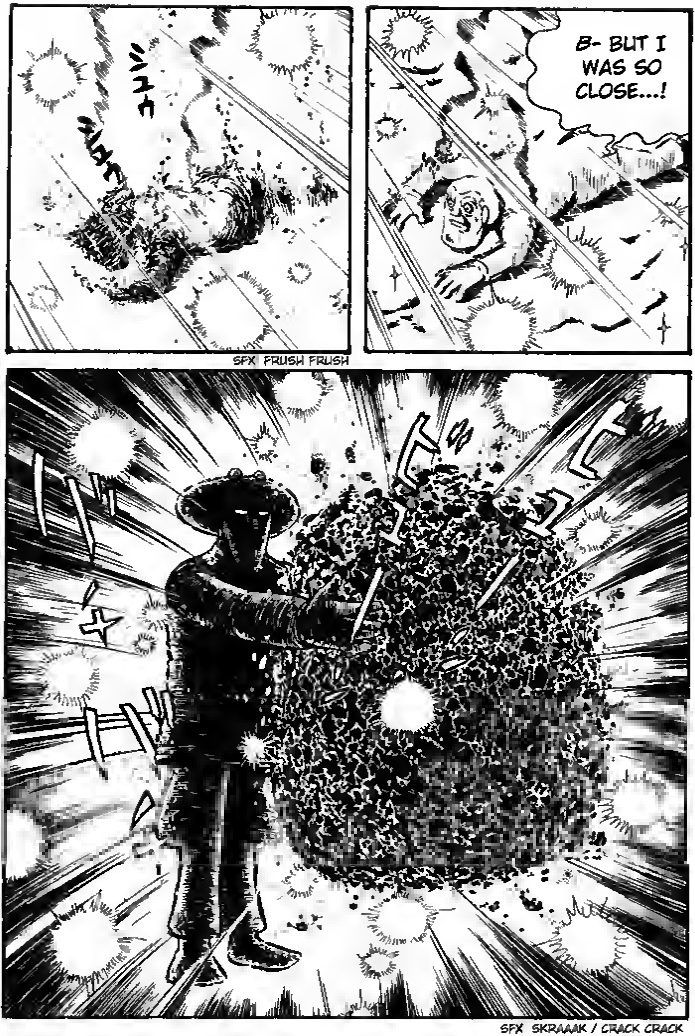

SFX: BOOM BOOM
SFX: CRACK CRACK
SFX: KA-BOOM
SFX: BOOM
URANUS, KEEP AT IT! CRUSH MARS!!
NOW IT'S JUST A RACE TO SEE IF I CAN CRUSH MARS BEFORE URANUS SHATTERS...!

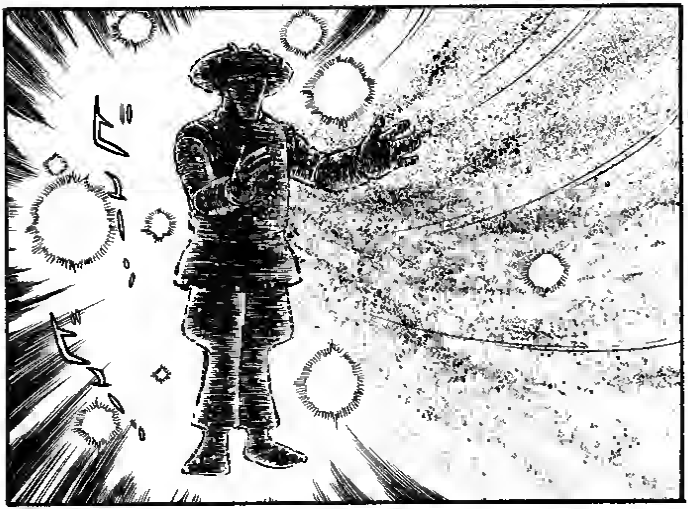
AH!
UWA AH!
SFX BOOM BOOM
SFX SKRAAAK

N- NO! GAIA IS PULLING ME IN!!
SFX FOOOOM

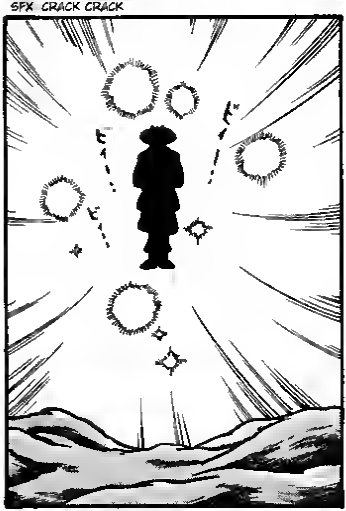

SFX GRAB

SFX: SKRAAAK
U-URGH ...!
GUH!

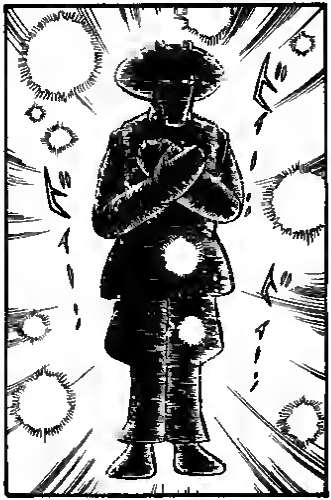

B- BUT I WAS SO CLOSE...!
SFX FRUSH FRUSH
SFX SKRAAAK / CRACK CRACK



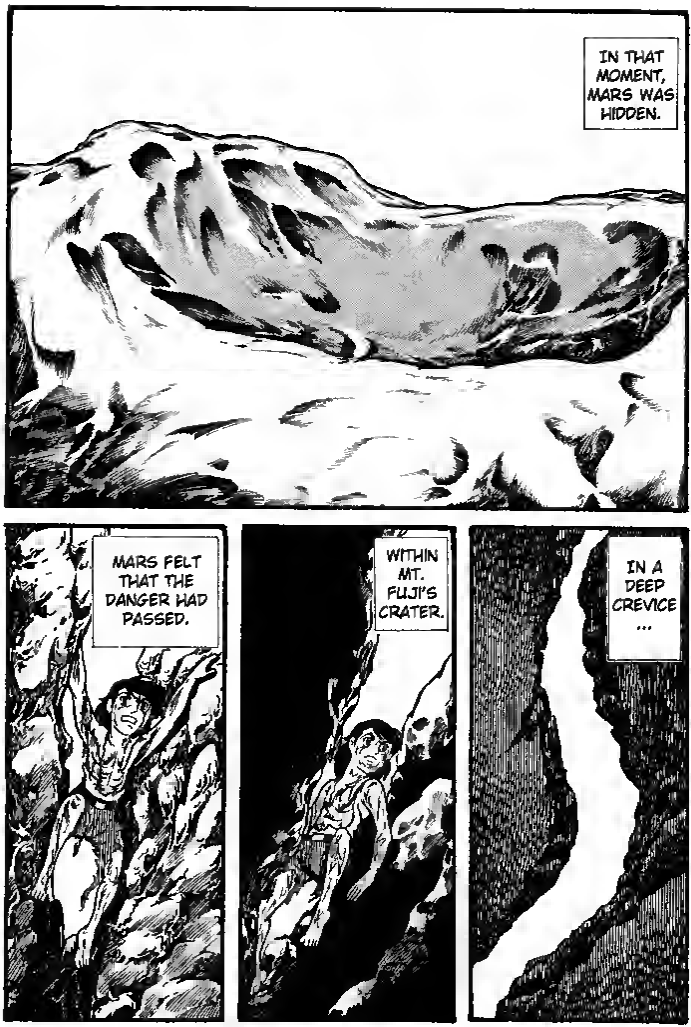
SFX: CRACK CRACK



SFX: CRACK CRACK

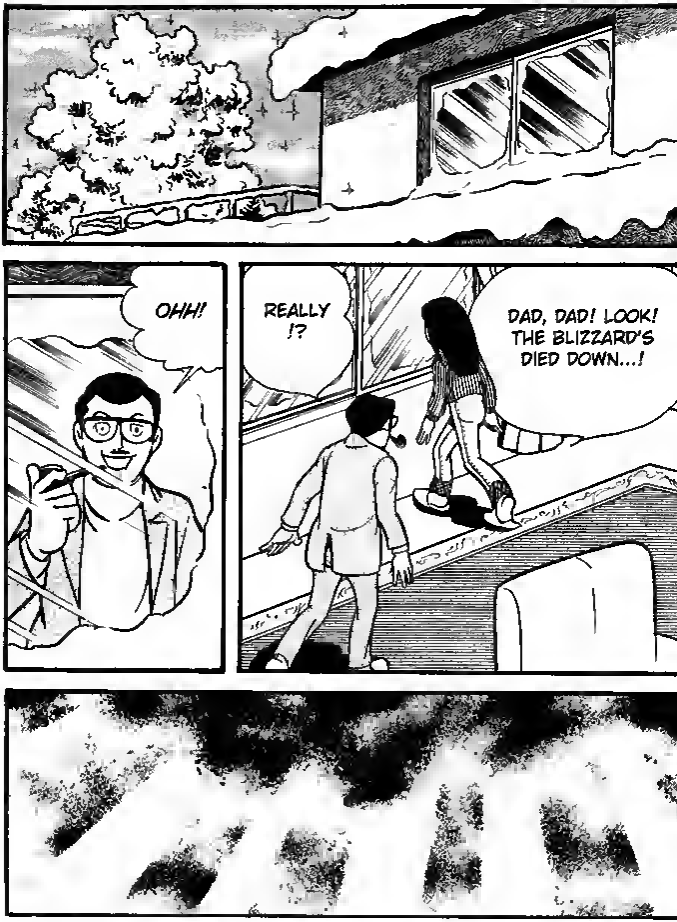


SFX: CRACK CRACK


IN THAT MOMENT, MARS WAS HIDDEN.
MARS FELT THAT THE DANGER HAD PASSED.
WITHIN MT. FUJI'S CRATER.
IN A DEEP CREVICE ...

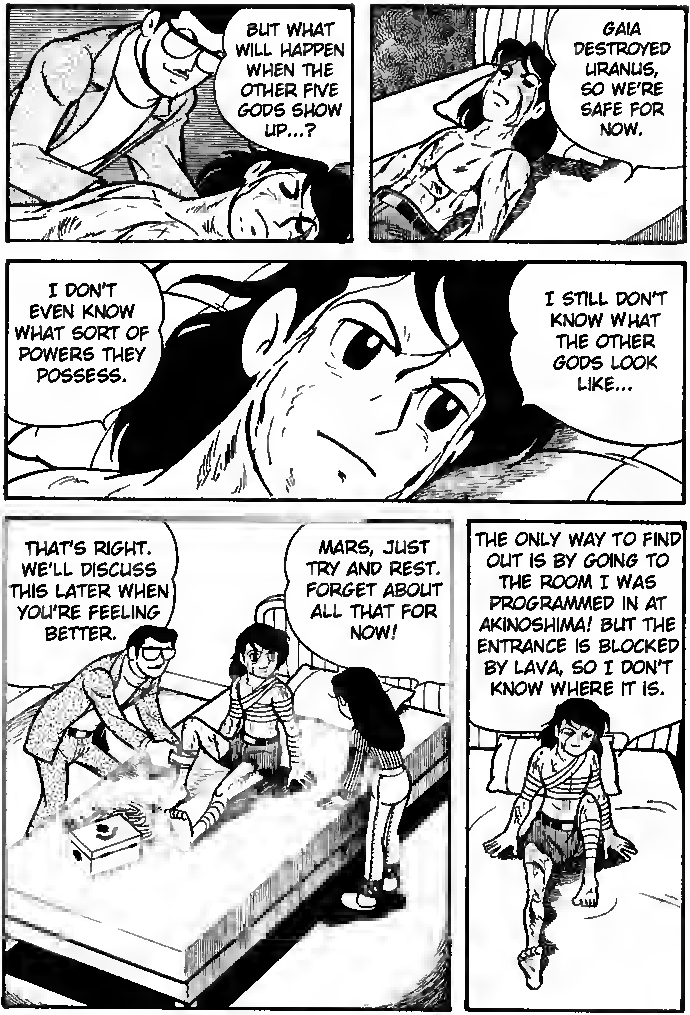
SFX ROLL
SFX SHAKE
THE BLIZZARD'S DIED DOWN, AND ALL TRACES ARE GONE.
THE BATTLE IS JUST BEGINNING!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S OVER!

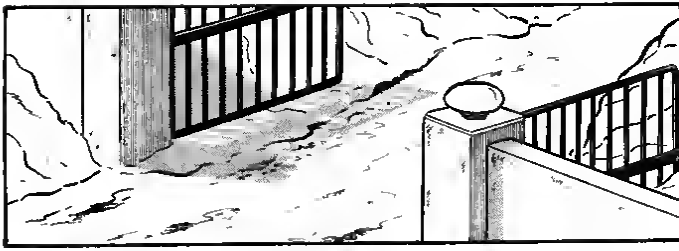
GAIA'S LAMP



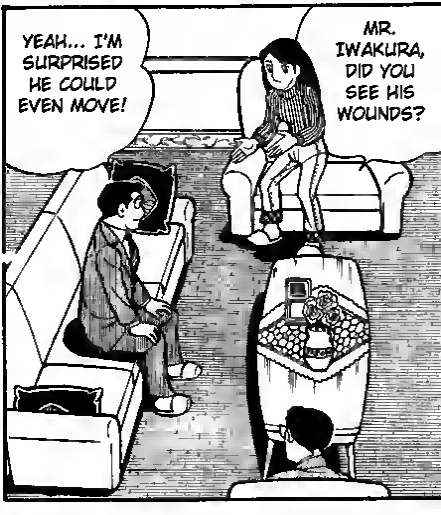
THANK GOOD-NESS! WE'RE SAFE.
HUH ...!?
MARS ...!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HURT!
IT'S MARS ...
I ENDED UP IN THE VACUUM OF A WHIRL-WIND AND GOT RIPPED UP...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, MARS!?

I'M FINE.
MARS, ARE YOU OKAY...?
REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENED, WE NEED TO PATCH YOU UP.
THESE ARE SOME PRETTY SERIOUS WOUNDS...
THE BALLOON TURNED OUT TO BE URANUS, ONE OF THE SIX GODS!
WHAT HAPPENED !?
SO THEN ...
HUH !?
URANUS WAS THE ONE WHO CAUSED THE BLIZZARD ...!


BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE OTHER FIVE GODS SHOW UP...?
GAIA DESTROYED URANUS, SO WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SORT OF POWERS THEY POSSESS.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OTHER GODS LOOK LIKE...
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'LL DISCUSS THIS LATER WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.
MARS, JUST TRY AND REST. FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT FOR NOW!
THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS BY GOING TO THE ROOM I WAS PROGRAMMED IN AT AKINOSHIMA! BUT THE ENTRANCE IS BLOCKED BY LAVA, SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.

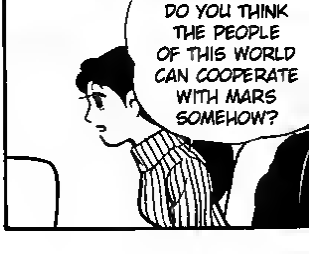


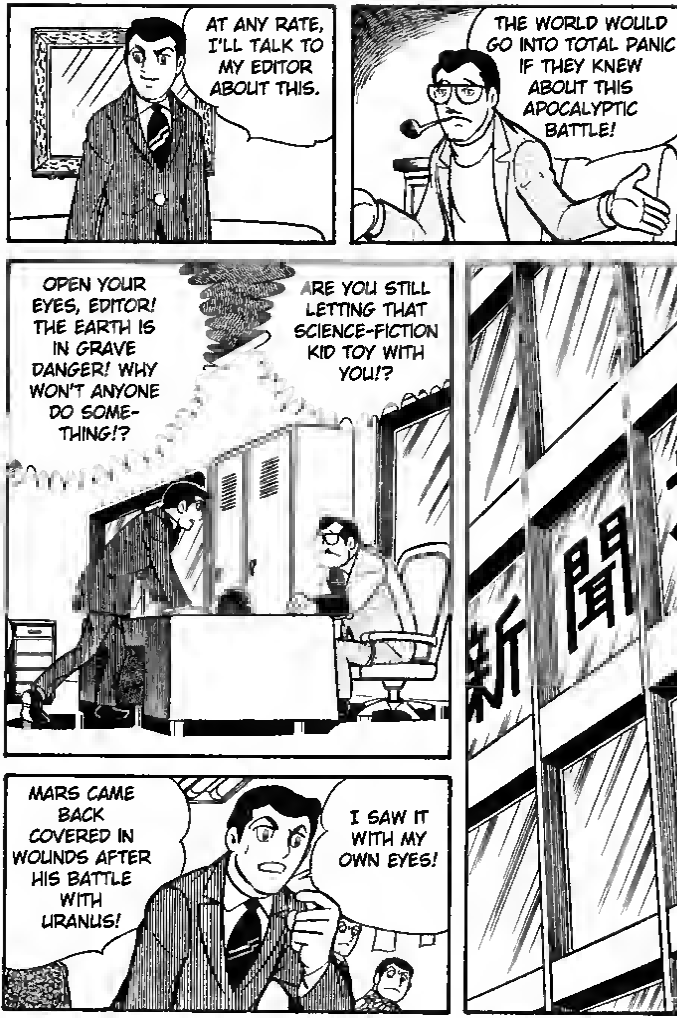
IF MARS HAD DIED, THE WORLD WOULDN'T EXIST RIGHT NOW!


YEAH... I'M SURPRISED HE COULD EVEN MOVE!
MR. IWAKURA, DID YOU SEE HIS WOUNDS?

JUST THE THOUGHT GIVES ME SHIVERS ...!

ONLY IF THEY BELIEVE WHAT HE SAYS...


DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD CAN COOPERATE WITH MARS SOMEHOW?


AT ANY RATE, I'LL TALK TO MY EDITOR ABOUT THIS.
THE WORLD WOULD GO INTO TOTAL PANIC IF THEY KNEW ABOUT THIS APOCALYPTIC BATTLE!
OPEN YOUR EYES, EDITOR! THE EARTH IS IN GRAVE DANGER! WHY WON'T ANYONE DO SOMETHING!?
ARE YOU STILL LETTING THAT SCIENCE-FICTION KID TOY WITH YOU!?
新聞
MARS CAME BACK COVERED IN WOUNDS AFTER HIS BATTLE WITH URANUS!
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!

SIGN: MAINICHI NEWS

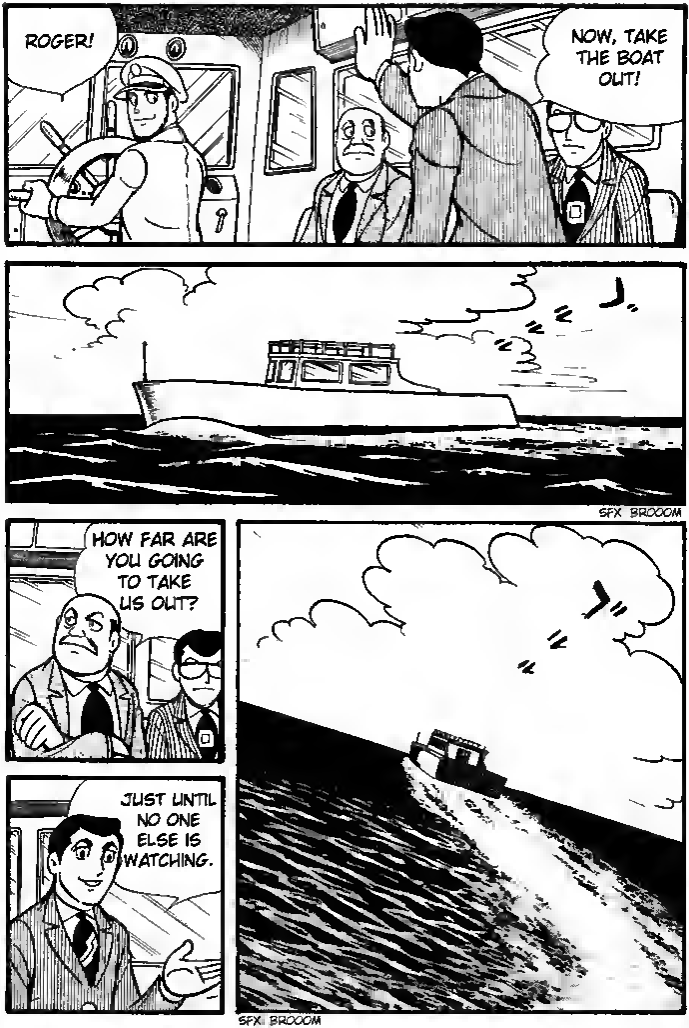
IN OUR FOLKLORE, THAT PHENOMENON "KAMA-ITACHI"!
SOMETIMES, WHEN A WHIRL-WIND BLOWS, IT CREATES A VACULUM THAT FEELS LIKE BEING CUT BY A SICKLE!
THERE'S OTHER EXPLANATIONS! THAT DOESN'T PROVE HIS STORY...!
PHONE LINES WERE DOWN ALL OVER JAPAN! IT WASN'T JUST THE METEOROLOGICAL STATION!
THE HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE LOSS OF CONTACT WITH THE FUJI METEOROLOGICAL STATION...?
WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR YOU TO BELIEVE ME!?
SIMPLE ABNORMAL WEATHER!
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE SNOW...
IF YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE SERIOUS, BRING ME PROOF! PROOF, I SAY!!

I FIGURED ...
NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE MY STORY ABOUT THE SIX GODS.
WE'D LOSE TOKYO AT LEAST TWICE OVER!
BUT WHAT WOULD WE DO IF THE FIVE GODS ATTACKED?
SO, HERE'S MY IDEA. WHY DON'T YOU SHOW GAIA TO MY EDITOR?
BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU HAD THE WORLD'S COOPERATION!
AND IF THE PEOPLE SAW IT, THERE WOULD BE A RIOT! WE'D JUST BE REVEALING OUR LOCATION TO THE FIVE GODS!

YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT WAY WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE CITY.
WHAT IF WE USED RADAR? THEN WE COULD WATCH OUT FOR THE FIVE GODS!
THAT WOULD BE PERFECT!
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE REVEAL GAIA TO A SELECT FEW IN AN ISOLATED LOCATION?
EXACTLY! IF YOU SEE THIS, YOU'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!
WHAT!? YOU WANT TO SHOW ME GAIA!?
SIGN: MAINICHI NEWS

CALL UP SOME SCIENTISTS ...!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!
HMPH ...!
ALRIGHT. I'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE!
SFX: BROOOM BROOOM / BEEEP BEEEP

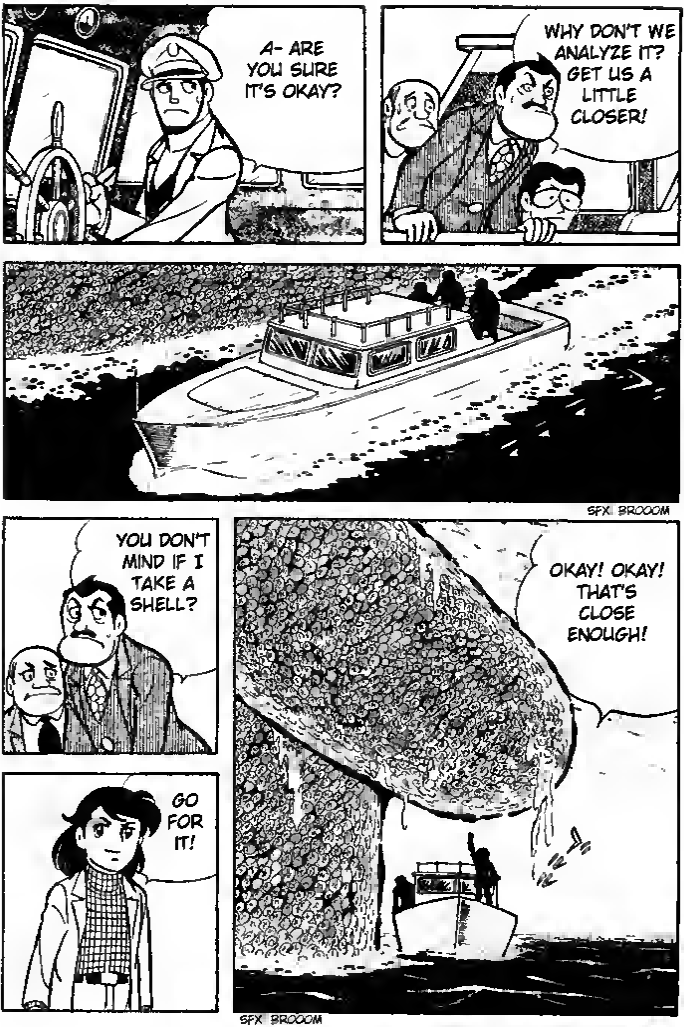
THESE PEOPLE ARE WORLD RENOWNED SCIENTISTS ...!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HEY, MARS! SORRY TO ASK THIS OF YOU WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.
IN THAT CASE, I DEMAND THAT YOUR HEAD BE MADE FULLY RESPONSIBLE.
IF THIS IS A PRANK, WE'LL BE MADE A LAUGHINGSTOCK!
I NEVER EXPECTED A FIRST-RATE NEWSPAPER LIKE YOURS TO BELIEVE THIS CHILD'S STORY!
NOW, NOW. LET'S SAVE THE TALK FOR AFTER YOU'VE SEEN GAIA!


ROGER!
NOW, TAKE THE BOAT OUT!
SFX: BROOOM
HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE US OUT?
JUST UNTIL NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING.
SFX: BROOOM

SFX BROOOM
YEAH ...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT GAIA'S HERE?
OKAY ...!
THIS IS FINE. ANCHOR THE BOAT.
GAIA!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
SO WHERE IS IT!?

SFX SPLAAASH
WAA
AH!!
AHH!
SFX SPLAAASH

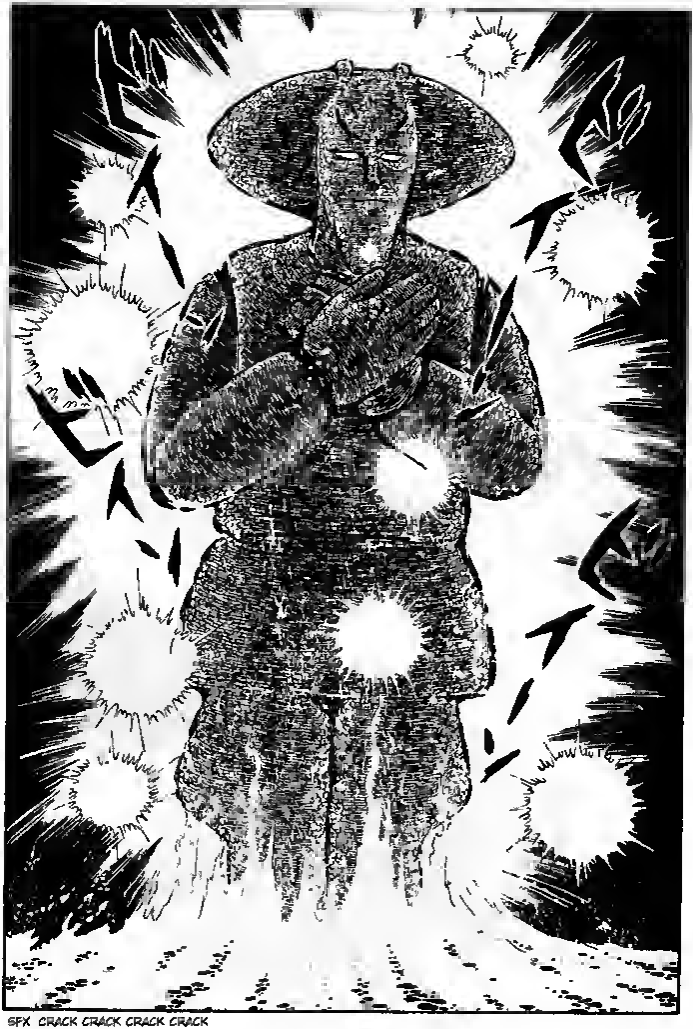
I- IT WON'T BITE, WILL IT...?
IT'S FINE.
NOW THAT'S A SURPRISE!
I- THIS IS GAIA?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S BEEN SLEEPING ON THE OCEAN FLOOR FOR YEARS...
THAT ASIDE, IT'S COVERED IN SHELLS.


A- ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
WHY DON'T WE ANALYZE IT? GET US A LITTLE CLOSER!
SFX: BROOOM
YOU DON'T MIND IF I TAKE A SHELL?
OKAY! OKAY! THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH!
GO FOR IT!
SFX: BROOOM

OHH! THERE'S METAL UNDER-NEATH!
LET'S TAKE A LITTLE MORE OFF!
IT'S REALLY HARD! YOU CAN'T EVEN SCRATCH IT!
HUH !?

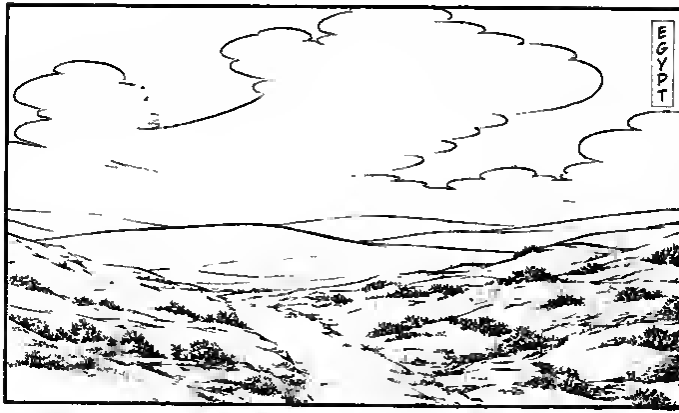
LOOK AT GAIA'S CHIN!
MARS, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I DON'T KNOW!
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN!?
THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE ...
THERE'S SOME KIND OF FLASHING LAMP!
IWAKURA! IF ALL WE CAN TAKE BACK IS PICTURES, BE SURE TO TAKE A LOT!
IT'S NO USE! IF ONLY WE COULD BRING SOMETHING BACK!
PHEW... IT WON'T SCRATCH, NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY!
YOU GOT IT ...!
SFX. SNAP SNAP

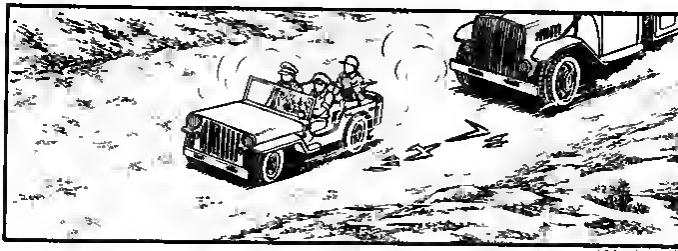
Y-YES!
THIS IS DANGEROUS, SO MOVE BACK A BIT!
OKAY!
MARS! SHOW US GAIA'S FULL BODY!
GAIA!
SFX: BROOOM
SFX: CRACK CRACK CRACK


SFX CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK

IS IT UTILIZING ELECTRO-MAGNETISM TO FLOAT!?
I- I- IT'S HUGE!!
OHH!
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT AN ABNORMAL PHENONMENON HAS OCCURRED IN EGYPT.
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU BREAKING NEWS!
COULD THIS BE ONE OF THE GODS...!?
ENTIRE TOWNS AND VILLAGES ARE BEING WIPED OFF THE MAP, WITH THE LOCAL MILITARY CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE.

MYSTERY IN THE SANDSTORM

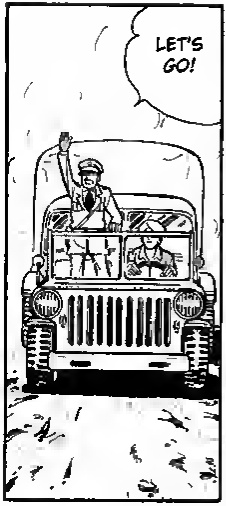


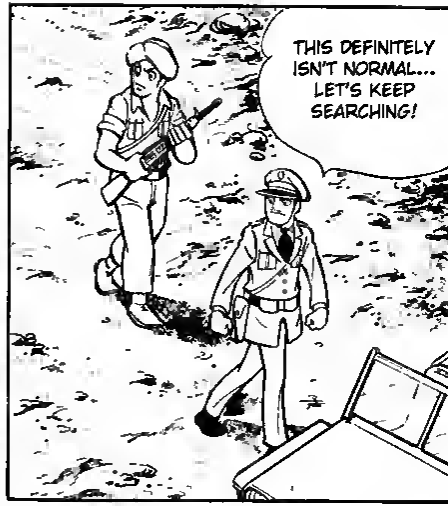


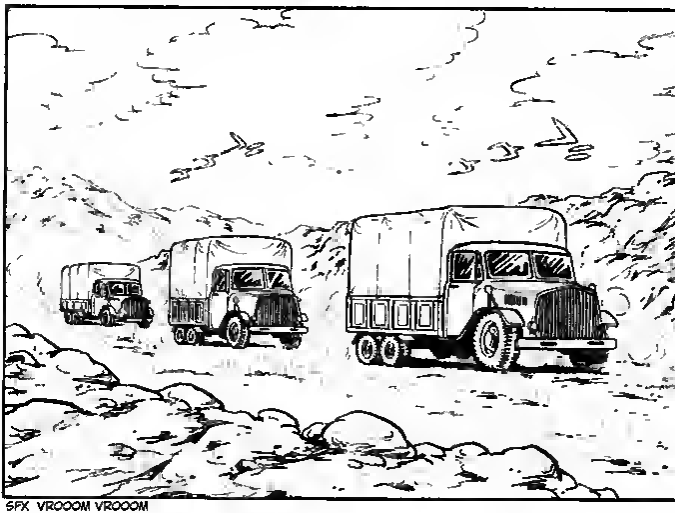
Y- YOU'RE RIGHT! HOW THE HELL COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED!?
THERE SHOULD BE A VILLAGE HERE!

IS THERE ANYONE HERE AT ALL!?

IS ANYONE HERE!?



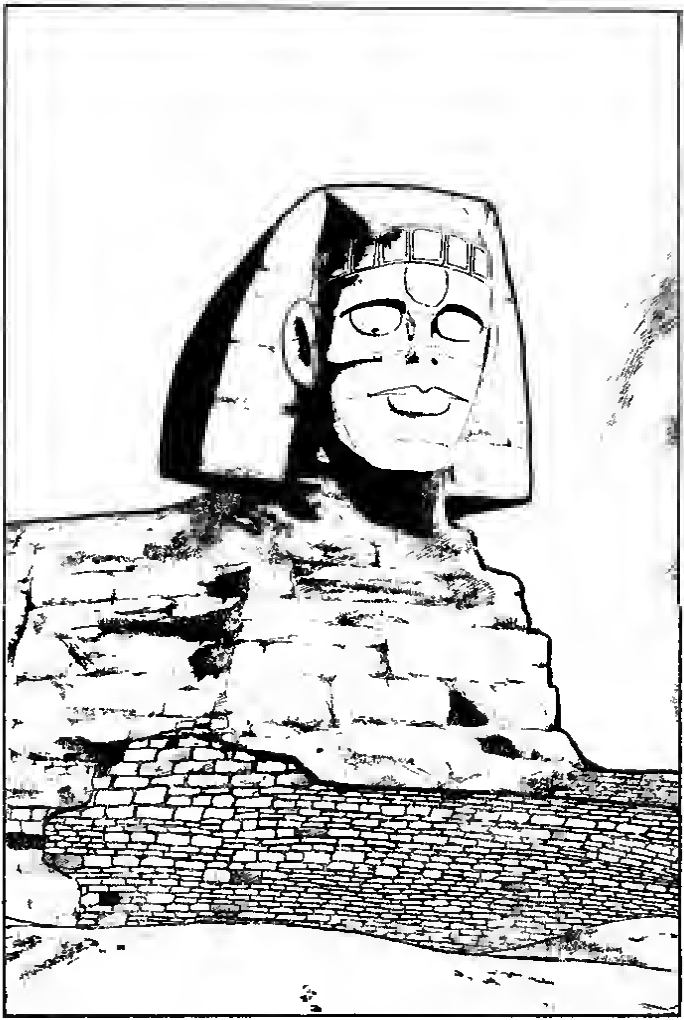




SFX VROOOM VROOOM

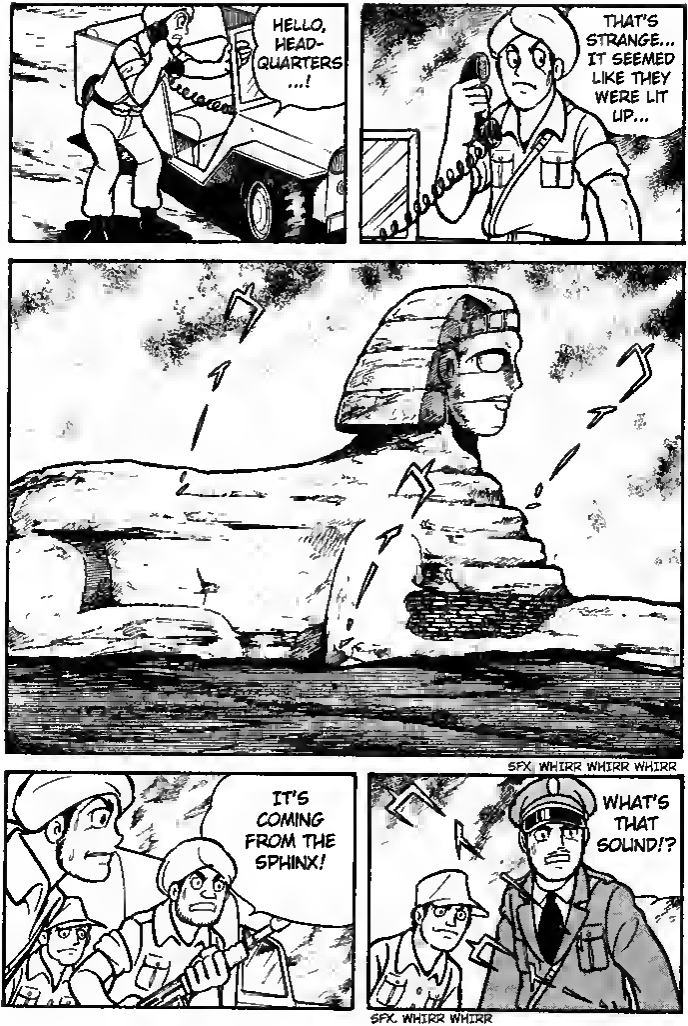
HMM
...!?

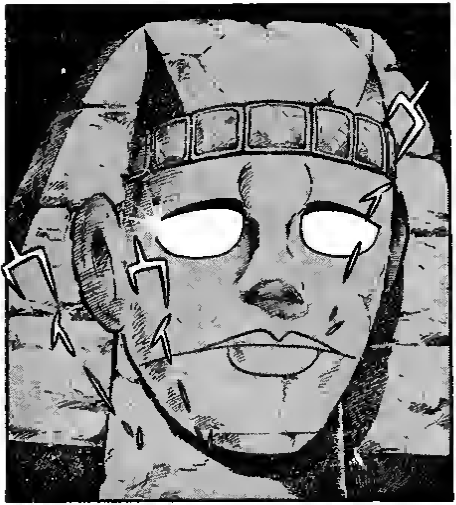
LET'S GET CLOSER AND CHECK IT OUT!
THERE'S A HUGE OBJECT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!
SFX: VROOOM
OHH ...!
AH!
HUH !?

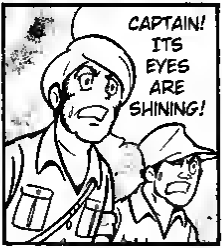


WHAT COULD IT BE DOING HERE!?
ISN'T THAT THE SPHINX? THE ONE THAT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED!?
YES, SIR!
CONTACT HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY!
HUH !?
HELLO! COME IN, HEADQUARTERS! THIS IS PATROL TWENTY-FOUR!

DON'T BE FOOLISH! HOW COULD A STONE STATUE'S EYES LIGHT UP?
CAPTAIN! THE SPHINX'S EYES JUST LIT UP ...!
LOOK AGAIN! NOTHING'S LIT UP.


HELLO, HEAD-QUARTERS ...!
THAT'S STRANGE... IT SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE LIT UP...
SFX. WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR
IT'S COMING FROM THE SPHINX!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND!?
SFX. WHIRR WHIRR

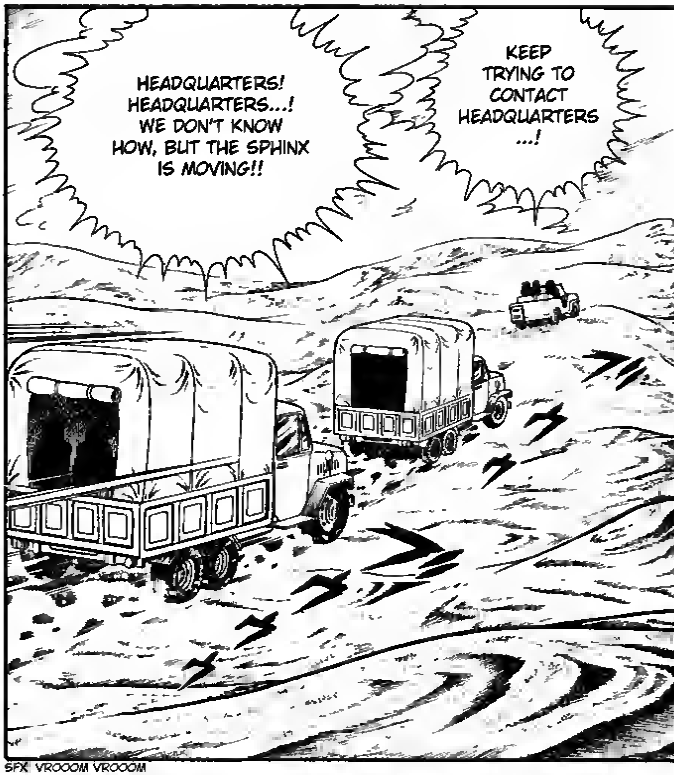




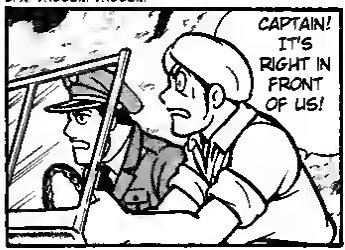
SFX: WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR

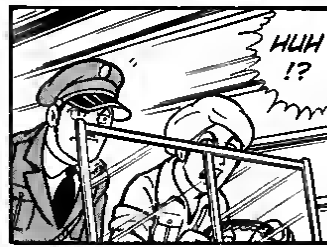
SFX: WHIRR WHIRR

WAH!
IT JUST MOVED ITS NECK!
SFX. TWIIIST TWIIIST
THIS IS TOO STRANGE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE ...!
SFX VROOOM



SFX: VROOOM VROOOM





TURN AROUND ...!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?
SFX VROOOM

HUH !?
AHH ...!
OHH!
THERE SHOULD ONLY BE ONE SPHINX, HOW CAN THERE BE THREE!?
CAPTAIN, THERE IT IS AGAIN!

SFX: SKREEEK
TURN AROUND TO THE LEFT!
OR MAYBE WE'RE ALL GOING CRAZY...!
THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF CURSE!
SFX: VROOOM VROOOM
WHAT'S GOING ON!? WHY DID YOU STOP!?
SFX: SKREEEK

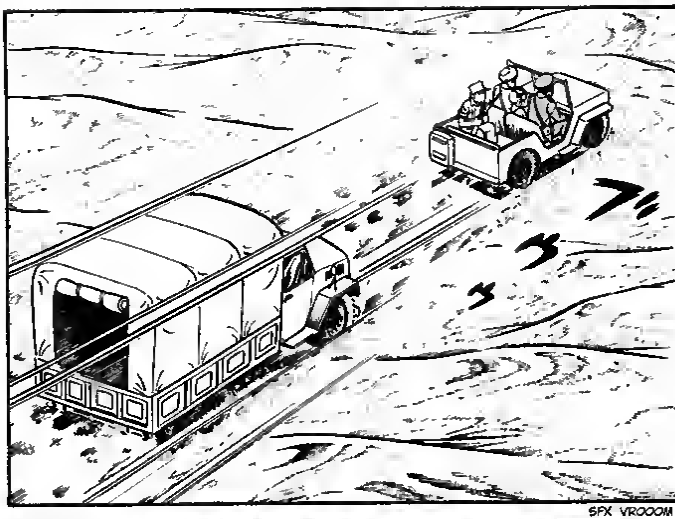
AHH ...!
CAPTAIN! IT'S OVER HERE, TOO!

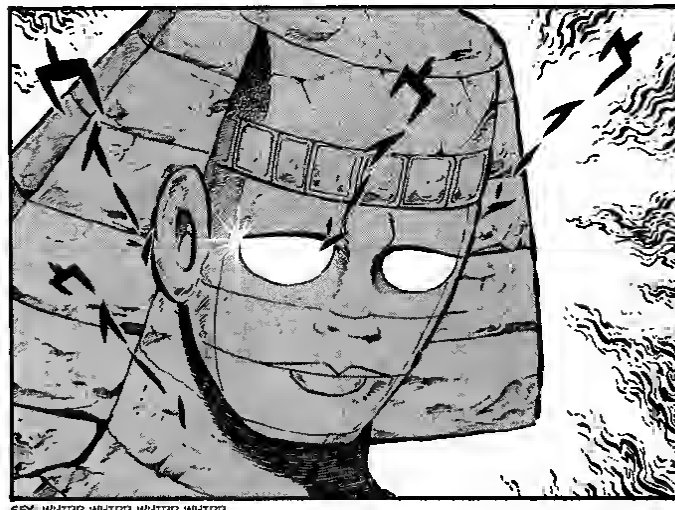
THERE'S ONLY ONE SPHINX, HOW CAN THERE BE FOUR!?
CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU POSITIVE!?

WE'RE SURE! THEY'VE APPEARED ON ALL SIDES OF US...!
ITS EYES ARE SHINING ...!

AND ITS NECK IS MOVING, AS IF IT'S STARING AT US...!
SFX WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR
HAVE YOU ALL CAUGHT SUNSTROKE ...!?
BUT THE SPHINX CAN'T MOVE!
THAT'S ENOUGH! RETURN AND GET YOURSELVES TO A HOSPITAL!
THEY CANNOT CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION IN THEIR CURRENT CONDITION. CALL THEM BACK!

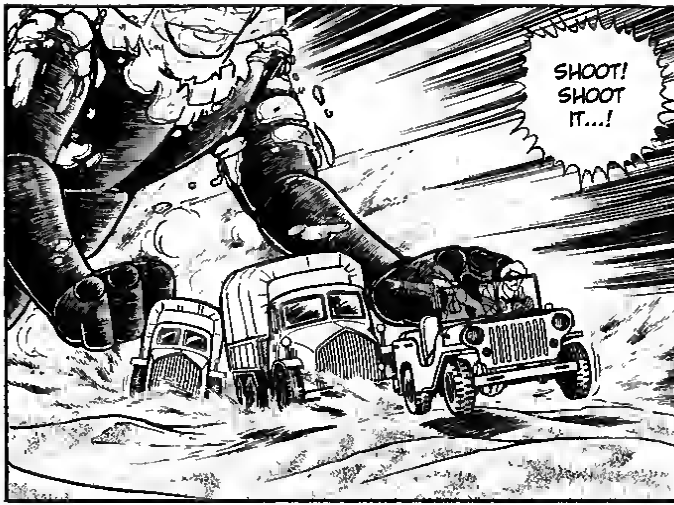
BUT CAPTAIN, HOW CAN WE GET BACK!?
HE SAID TO COME BACK. THEY DON'T BELIEVE US AT ALL!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO IN BETWEEN THE SPHINXES!
LET'S GO!
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS CREEPY INCIDENT!

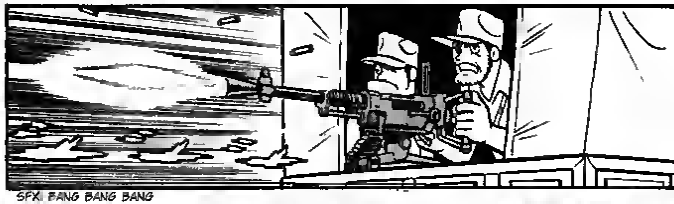

SFX: VROOOM


SFX: WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR

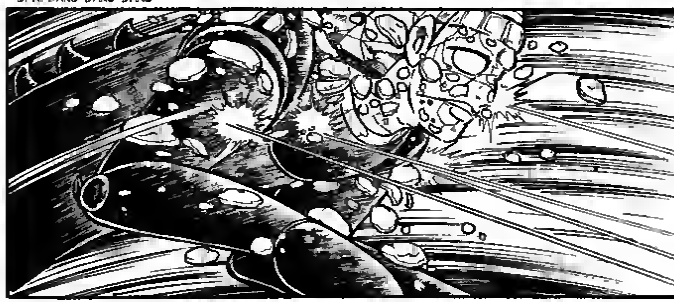
SFX. KRRSSSHHH KRRSSSHHH / CRACK CRACK

THE SPHINX STOOD UP!?
UWA AH!
THE SPHINX JUST STOOD UP AND IS HEADED TOWARDS US!
HEAD-QUARTERS ...!
SFX: TAP TAP TAP TAP

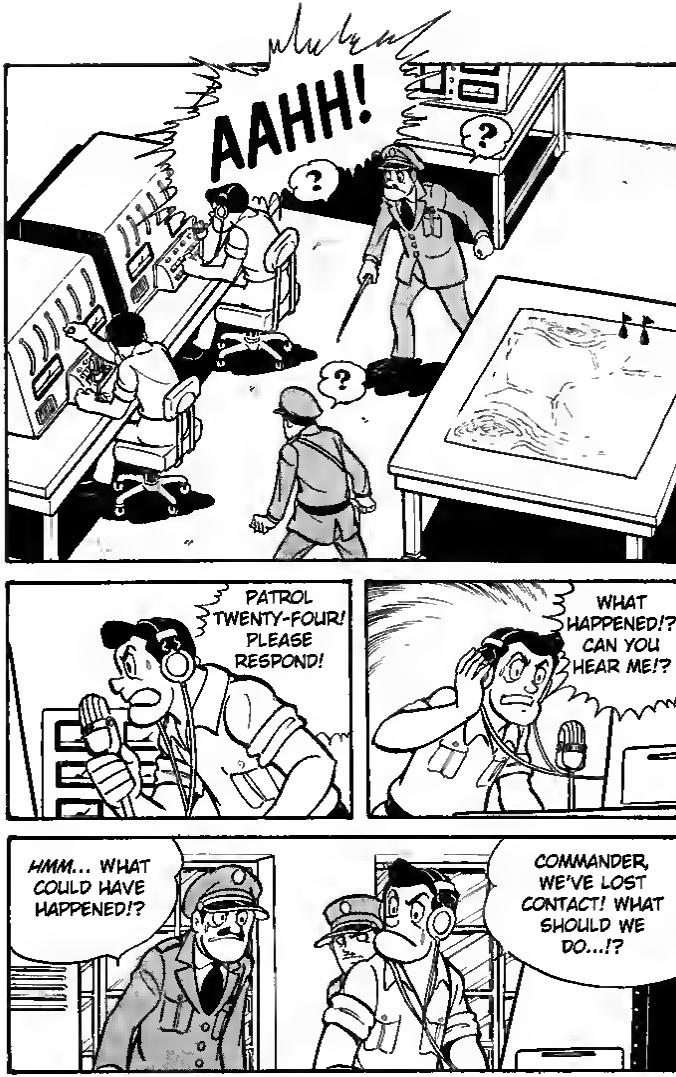




SFX: BANG BANG BANG



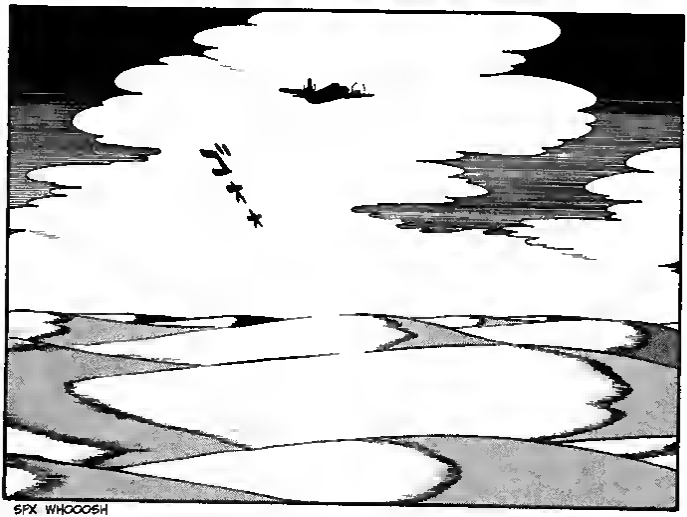
SFX: KA-BOOOM! / WAAAAAH!

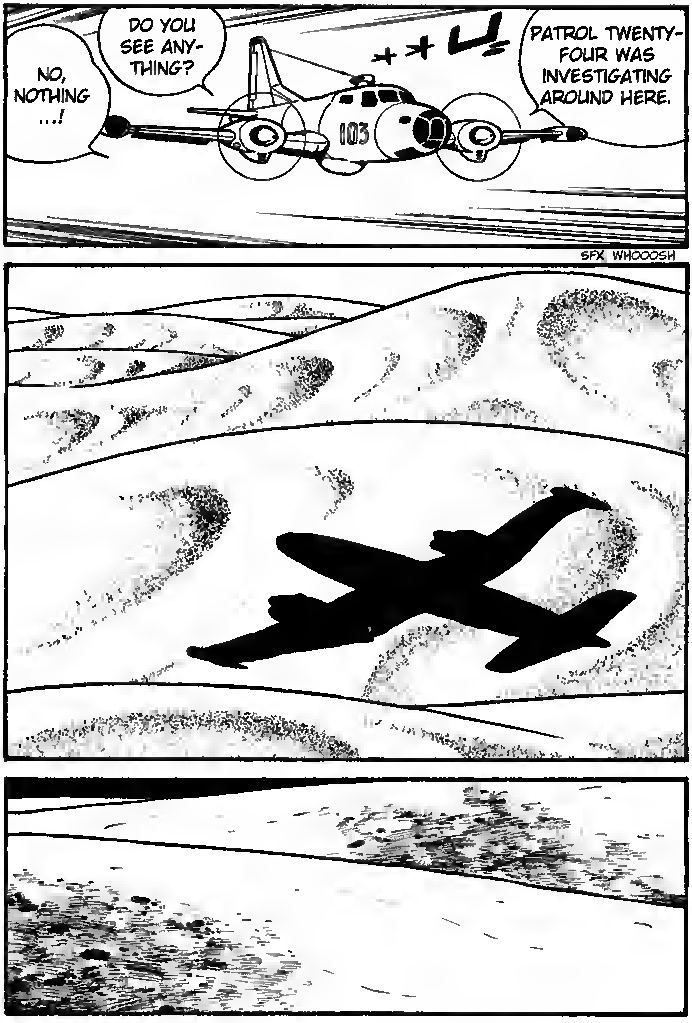

AAHH!
?
?
?
PATROL TWENTY-FOUR! PLEASE RESPOND!
WHAT HAPPENED!? CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
HMM... WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED!?
COMMANDER, WE'VE LOST CONTACT! WHAT SHOULD WE DO...!?

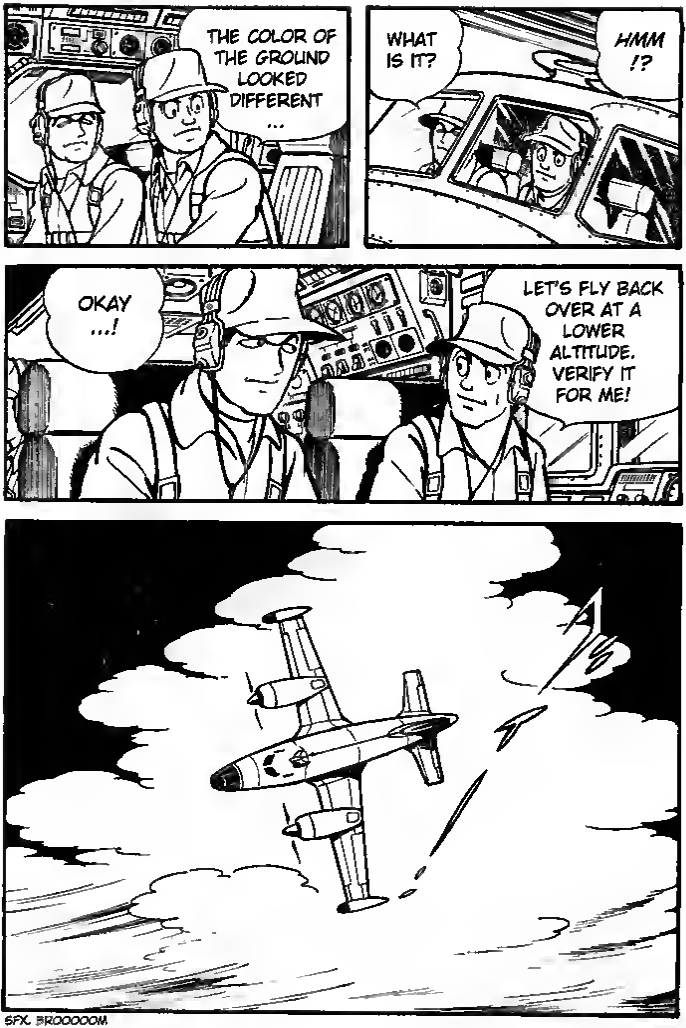
BUT THEIR CRIES DIDN'T SEEM FAKE!
FIRST THERE ARE FOUR SPHINXES... AND THEN IT STOOD UP... HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THEIR REPORTS!?

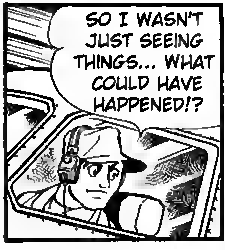
IF THIS IS A JOKE, THEY'LL PAY DEARLY FOR IT!

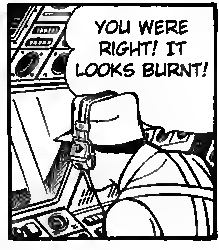
YES, SIR!
ALRIGHT, THEN. SEND OUT A RECON PLANE!

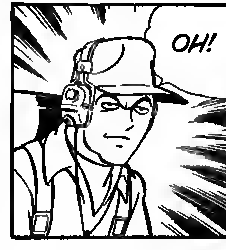

SFX WHOOOSH

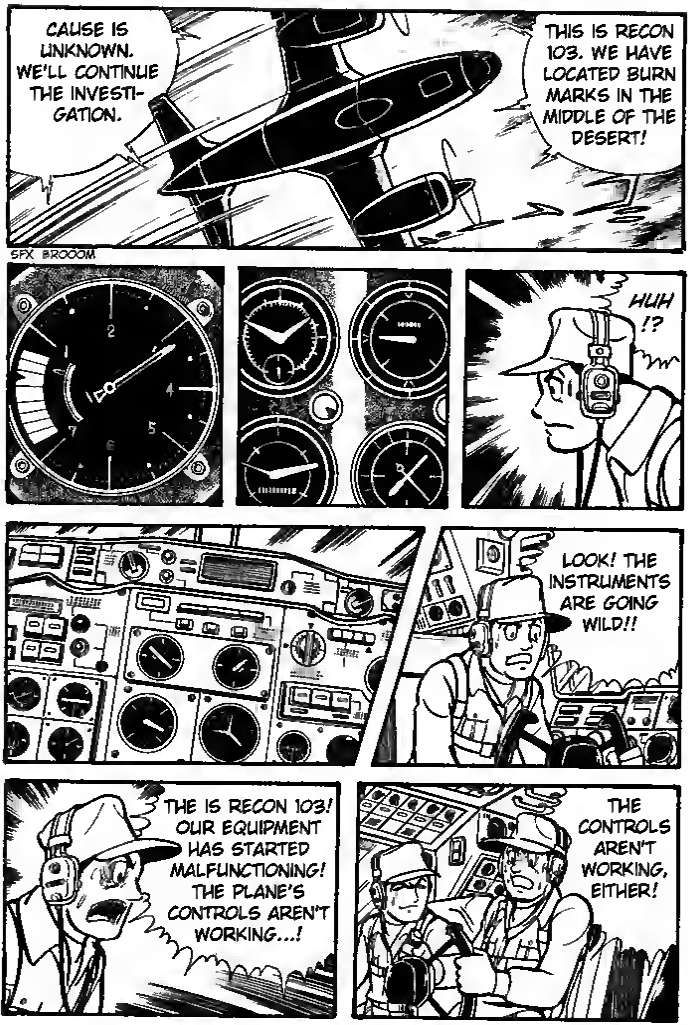

DO YOU SEE ANY-THING?
NO, NOTHING ...!
PATROL TWENTY-FOUR WAS INVESTIGATING AROUND HERE.
103
SFX WHOOOSH

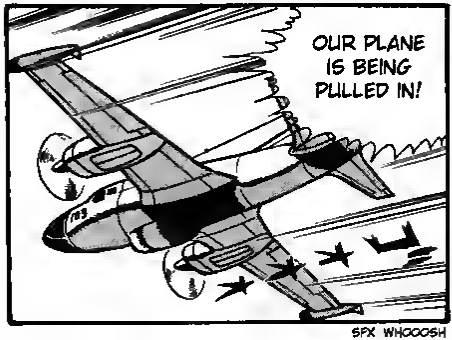

THE COLOR OF THE GROUND LOOKED DIFFERENT ...
WHAT IS IT?
HMM !?
OKAY ...!
LET'S FLY BACK OVER AT A LOWER ALTITUDE. VERIFY IT FOR ME!
SFX. BROOOOOM

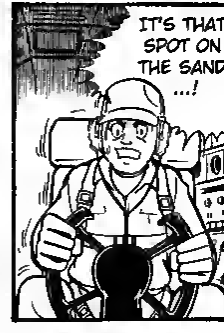

SO I WASN'T JUST SEEING THINGS... WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED!?


YOU WERE RIGHT! IT LOOKS BURNT!

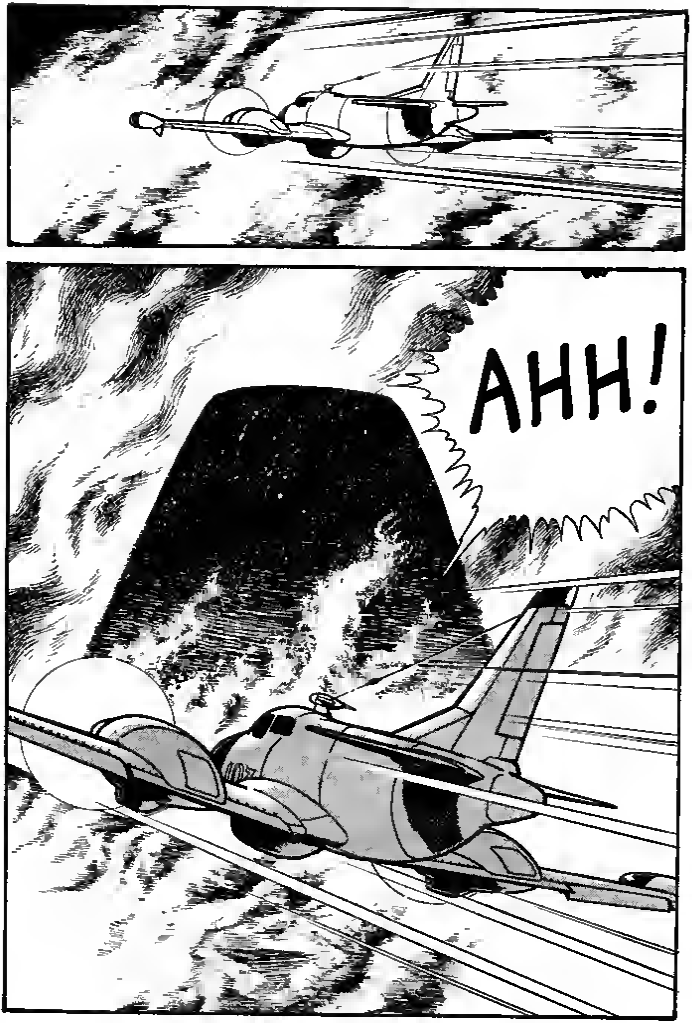

OH!

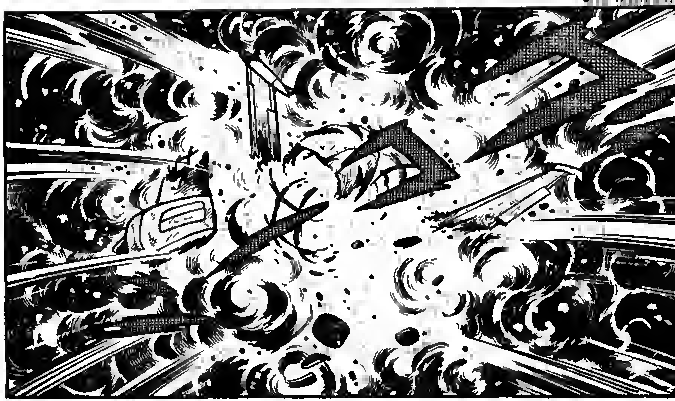

CAUSE IS UNKNOWN. WE'LL CONTINUE THE INVESTI-GATION.
THIS IS RECON 103. WE HAVE LOCATED BURN MARKS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!
SFX BROOOM
HUH !?
LOOK! THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING WILD!!
THE IS RECON 103! OUR EQUIPMENT HAS STARTED MALFUNCTIONING! THE PLANE'S CONTROLS AREN'T WORKING...!
THE CONTROLS AREN'T WORKING, EITHER!





SFX WHOOOSH


AHH!

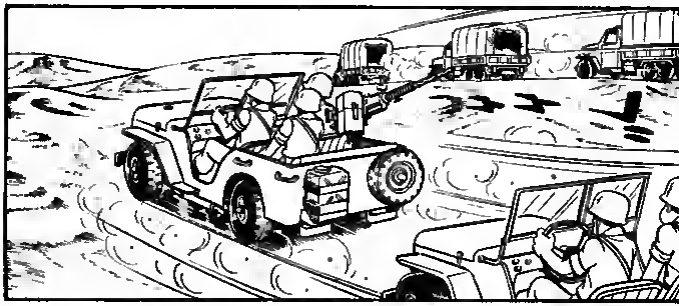


SFX. KA-BOOOOOM

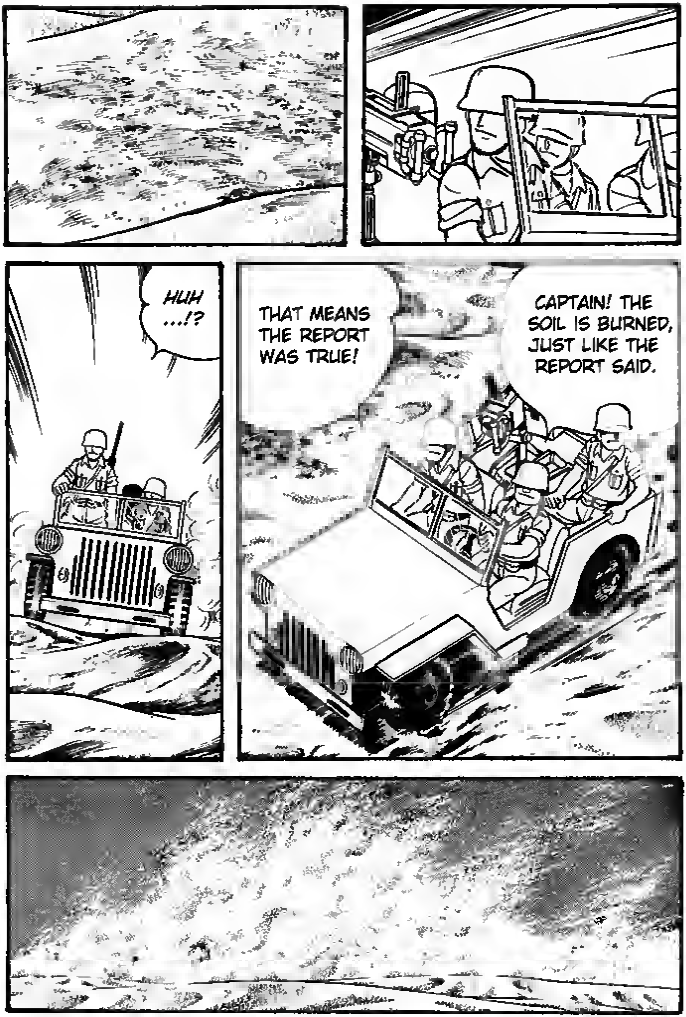
ADVANCE OF THE SPHINX

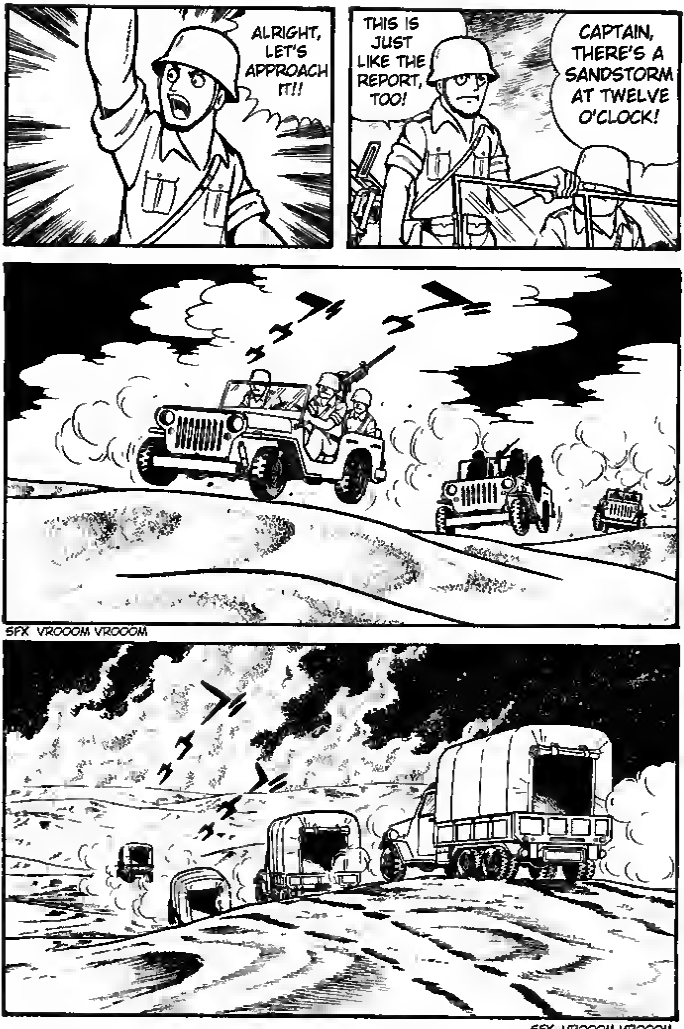
THEY SAID THEY ACTUALLY FOUND THE SPHINX!?
WHAT!? THE RECON AIRCRAFT IS MISSING!?
HMM... THAT'S THE SAME EXACT POSITION WHERE PATROL TWENTY-FOUR DISAPPEARED.
BUT THEIR INSTRUMENTS WENT WILD AND THEY WERE PULLED IN!?
ALRIGHT, WE CAN'T IGNORE THIS. SEND THE ARMY IN TO INVESTIGATE.

SFX. VROOOM



SFX. VROOOM

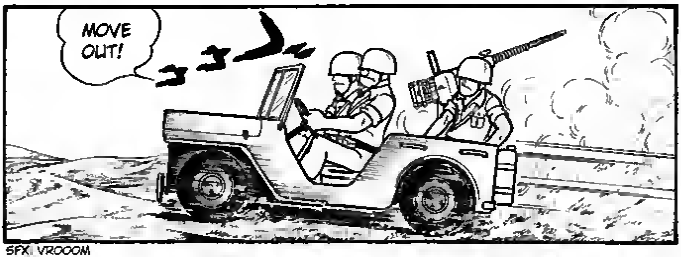

HUH ...!?
THAT MEANS THE REPORT WAS TRUE!
CAPTAIN! THE SOIL IS BURNED, JUST LIKE THE REPORT SAID.


ALRIGHT, LET'S APPROACH IT!!
THIS IS JUST LIKE THE REPORT, TOO!
CAPTAIN, THERE'S A SANDSTORM AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!
SFX. VROOOM VROOOM
SFX. VROOOM VROOOM

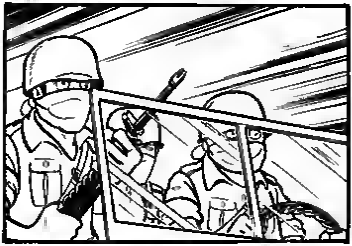
HUH!?
AND THERE'S ONE AT THREE O'CLOCK!
THERE'S A SANDSTORM AT NINE O'CLOCK, TOO!
CAPTAIN, THERE'S A SANDSTORM BEHIND US NOW!

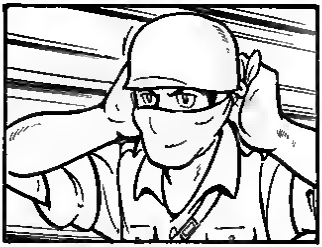
MMGH ...!
CAPTAIN, WHICH SANDSTORM DO WE HEAD FOR?

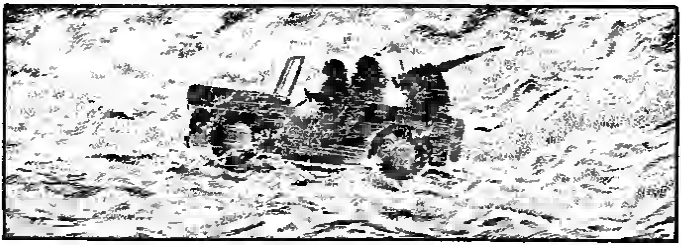
ALRIGHT, LET'S INVESTIGATE THE SANDSTORM AHEAD OF US FIRST.

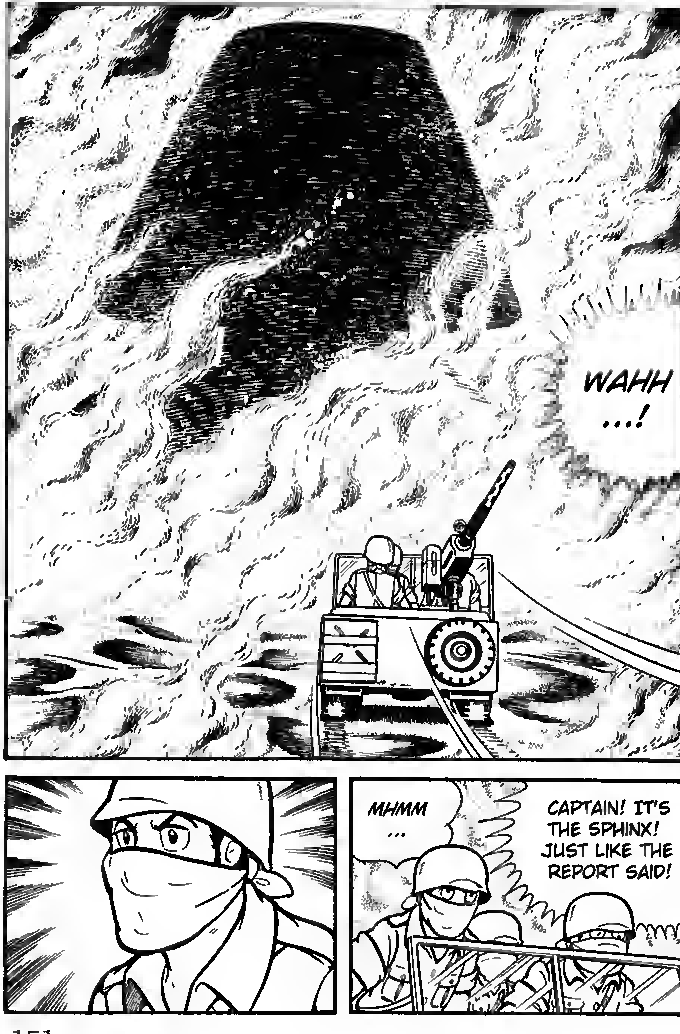

MOVE OUT!

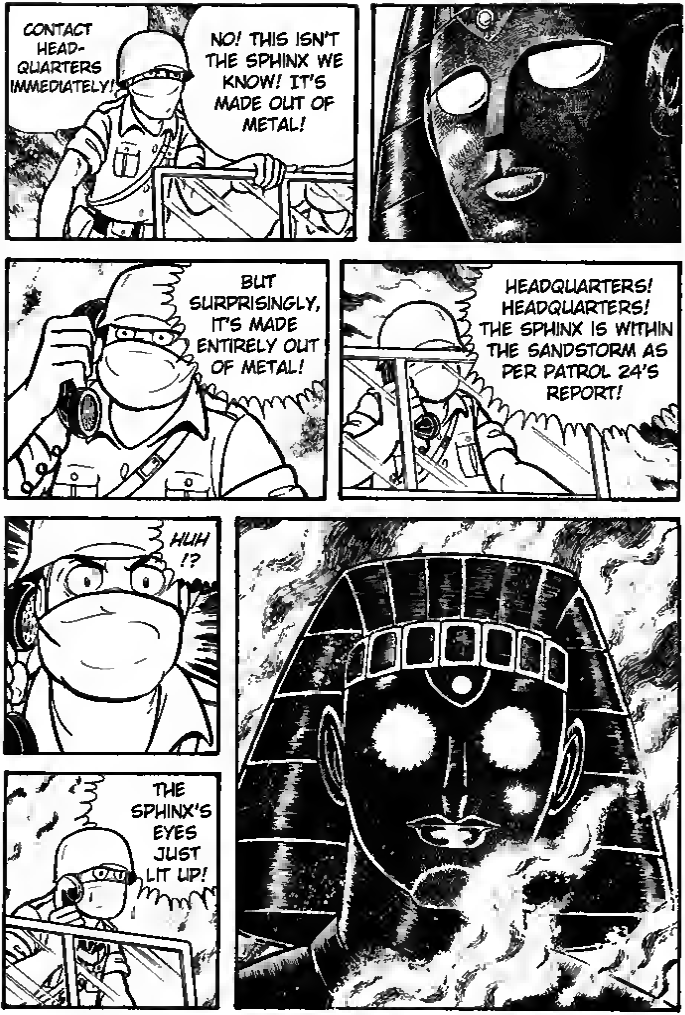
SFX: VROOOM



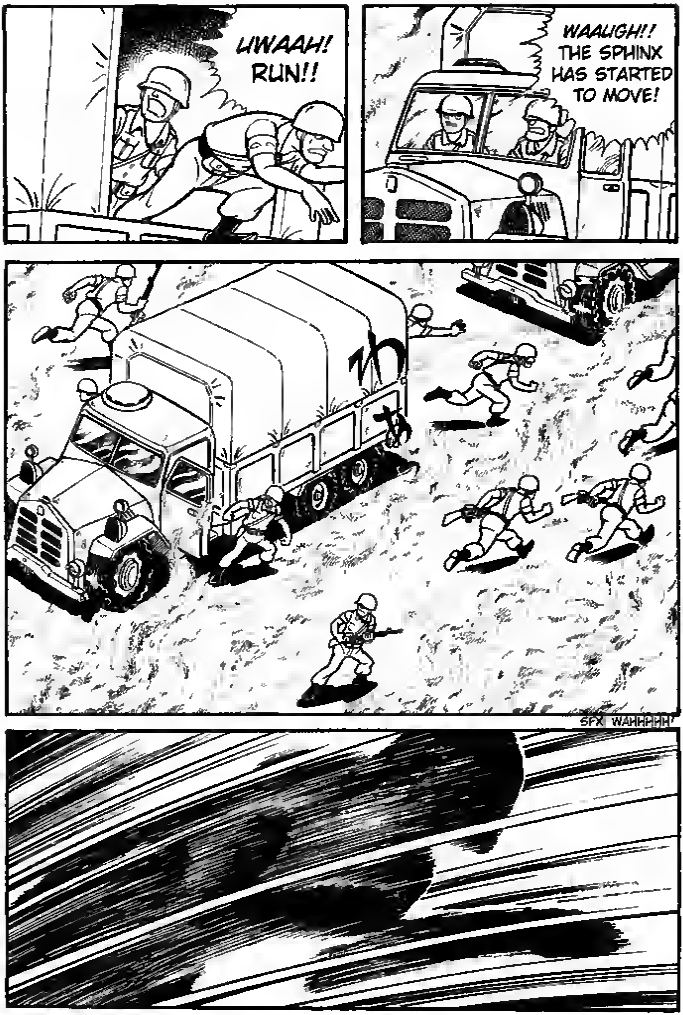


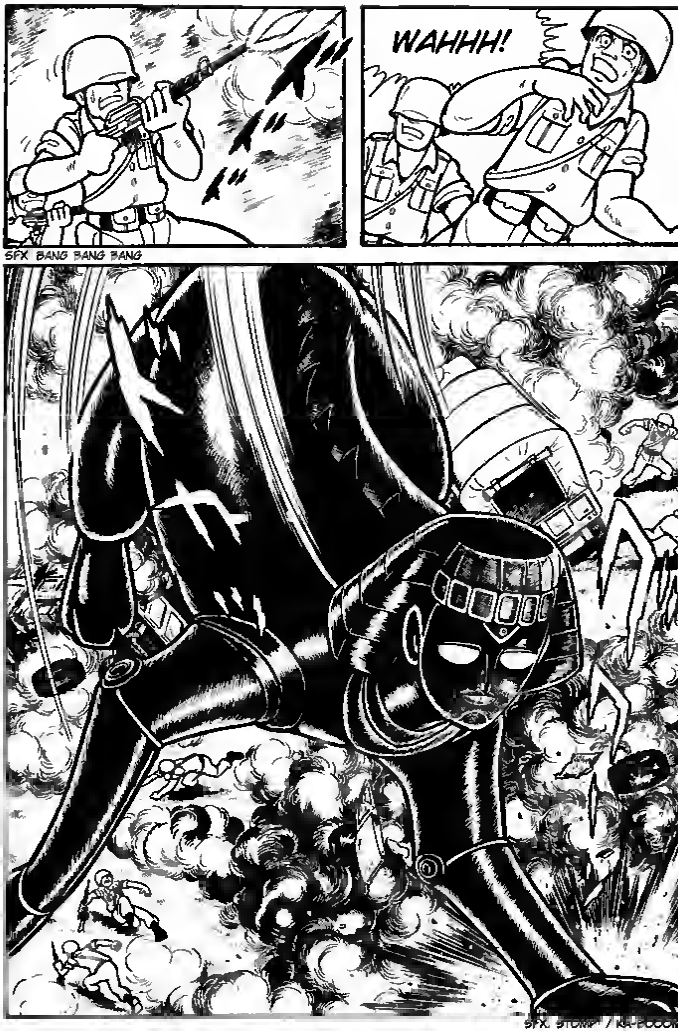


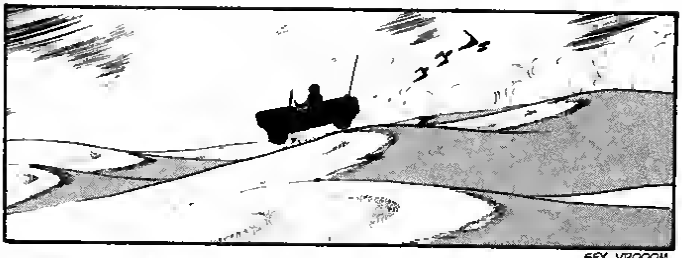

WAHH ...!
MHMM ...
CAPTAIN! IT'S THE SPHINX! JUST LIKE THE REPORT SAID!


CONTACT HEAD-QUARTERS IMMEDIATELY!
NO! THIS ISN'T THE SPHINX WE KNOW! IT'S MADE OUT OF METAL!
BUT SURPRISINGLY, IT'S MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF METAL!
HEADQUARTERS! HEADQUARTERS! THE SPHINX IS WITHIN THE SANDSTORM AS PER PATROL 24'S REPORT!
HUH !?
THE SPHINX'S EYES JUST LIT UP!

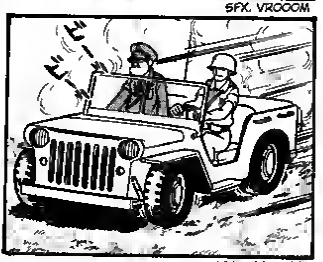
SFX: STOMP!


UWAAH! RUN!!
WAAUGH!! THE SPHINX HAS STARTED TO MOVE!
SFX: WAHHHHH!

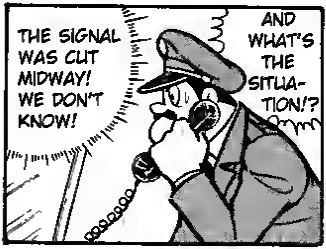

WAHHH!
SFX BANG BANG BANG
SFX. STOMP / KA-BOOOM!



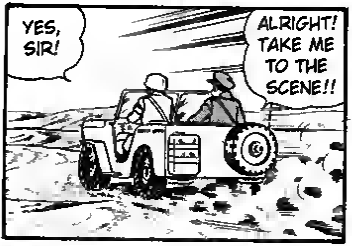
SFX. VROOOM



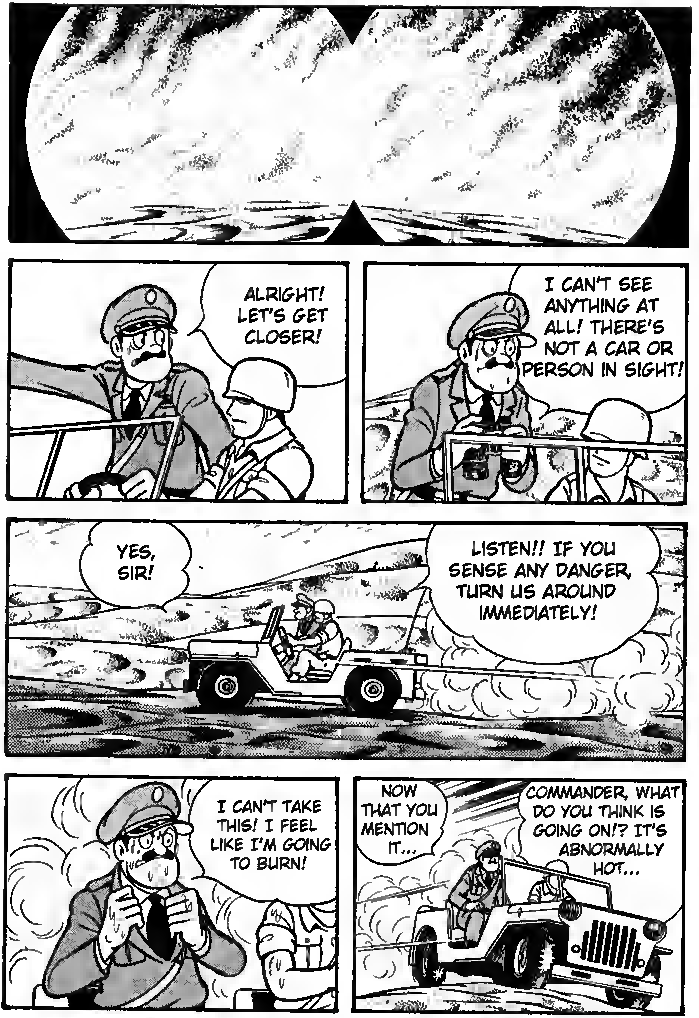
SFX. BEEP BEEP

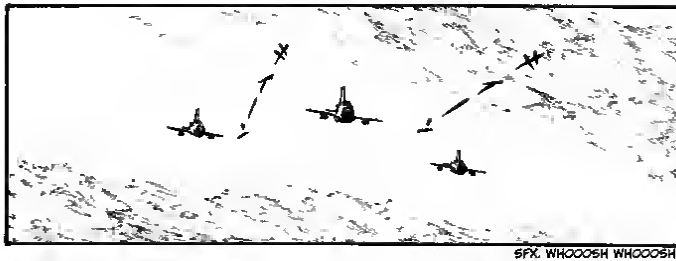


WHAT!?
COMMANDER HAUD! IT'S TERRIBLE! WE'VE RECEIVED A WIRELESS FROM SQUAD 36' THEY'VE ENGAGED THE SPHINX AND ARE CURRENTLY IN A FIREFIGHT!

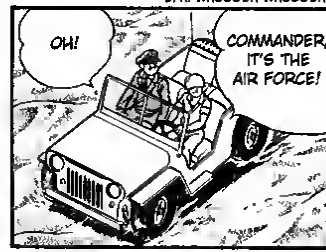


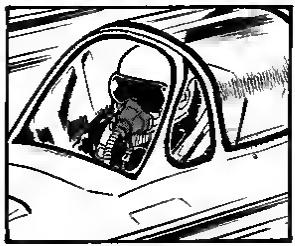
WE'RE IN SIGHT OF THE SANDSTORM, COMMANDER HAUD!
THAT'S STRANGE... THE REPORTS SAID THAT THERE WERE SANDSTORMS IN FOUR DIRECTIONS, BUT I ONLY SEE THE ONE IN FRONT OF US!
MMM ...
THE TIRE TRACKS CONTINUE IN THAT DIRECTION! I ASSUME SQUAD 36 HAS CHARGED INTO THE STORM!

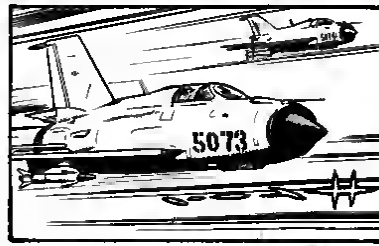

ALRIGHT! LET'S GET CLOSER!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL! THERE'S NOT A CAR OR PERSON IN SIGHT!
YES, SIR!
LISTEN!! IF YOU SENSE ANY DANGER, TURN US AROUND IMMEDIATELY!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS! I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO BURN!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
COMMANDER, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON!? IT'S ABNORMALLY HOT...



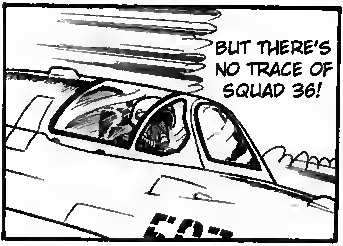
SFX. WHOOOSH WHOOOSH

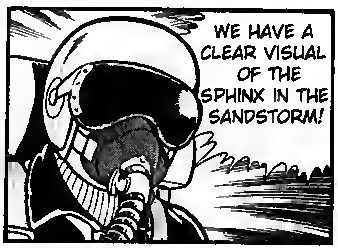


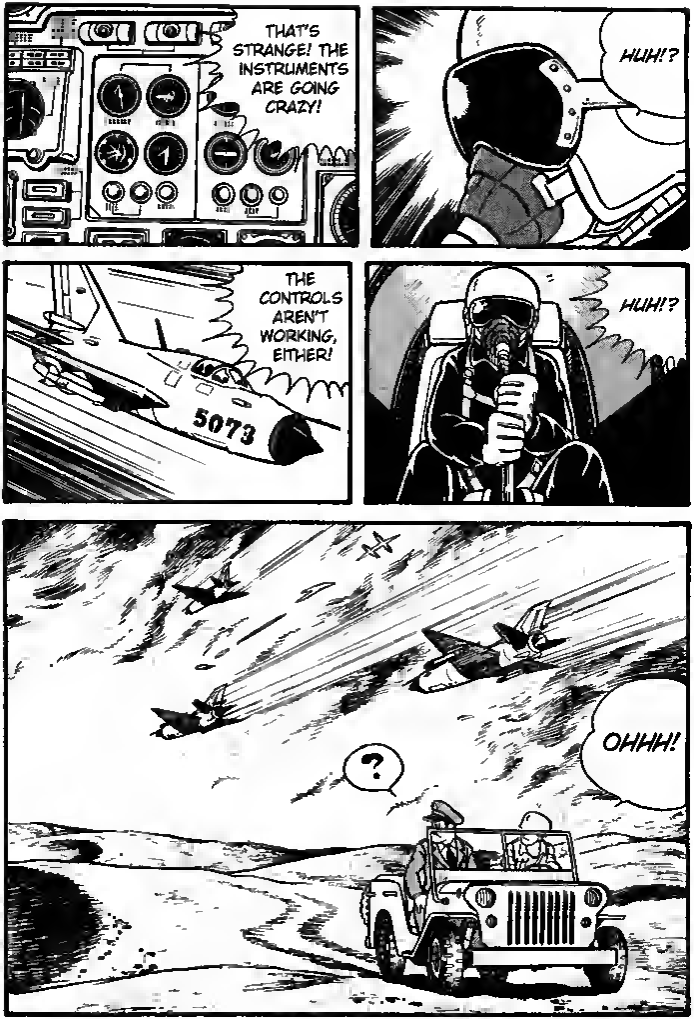




SFX. WHOOOSH

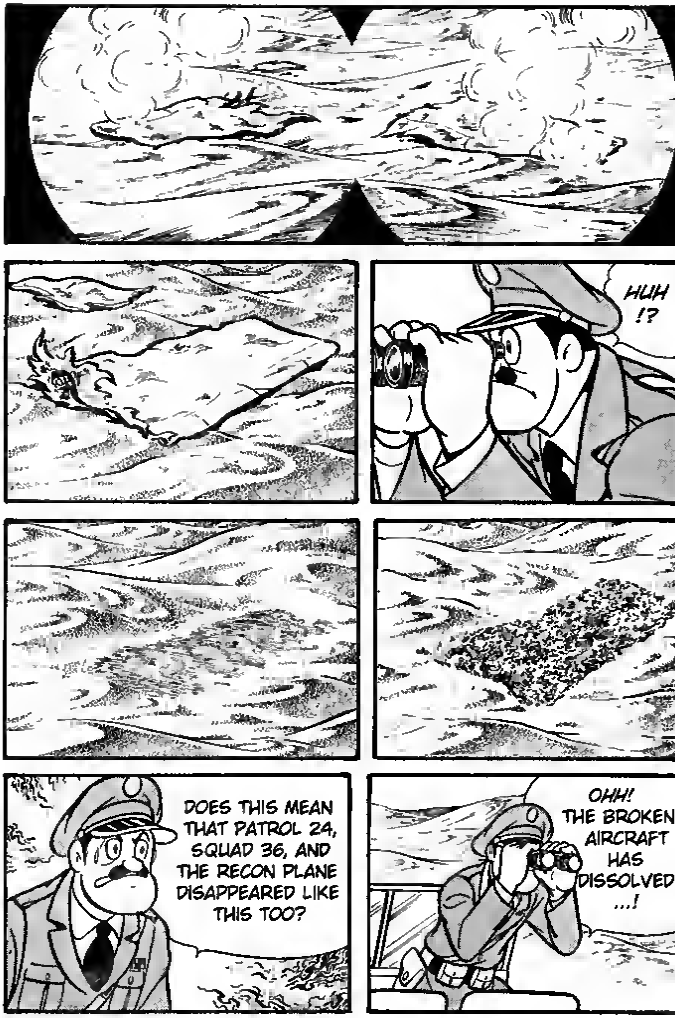

BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF SQUAD 36!


WE HAVE A CLEAR VISUAL OF THE SPHINX IN THE SANDSTORM!

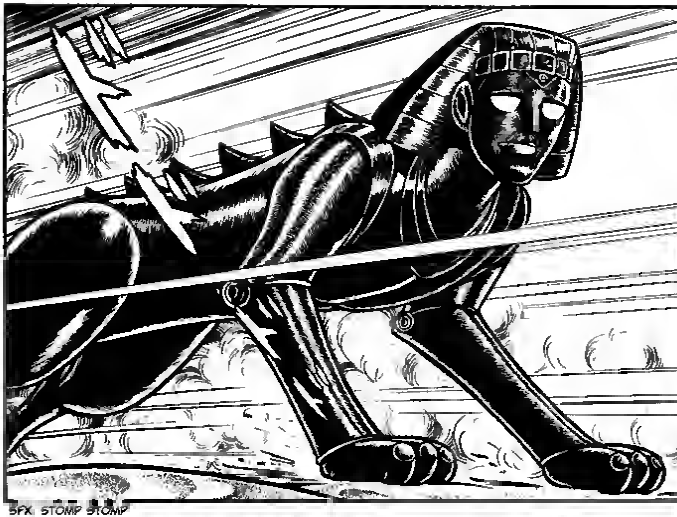

THAT'S STRANGE! THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING CRAZY!
HUH!?
THE CONTROLS AREN'T WORKING, EITHER!
5073
HUH!?
?
OHHH!

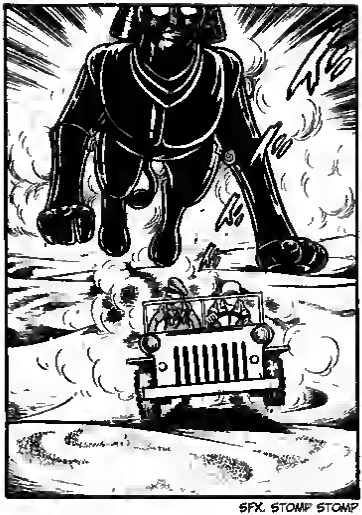
SFX. WHOOOSH

SFX: KRSSSHHH / BOOOOM!
I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD SURVIVE THAT!
WHAT IS THE AIR FORCE DOING!?
AHHH!

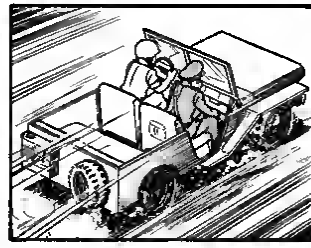

HUH !?
DOES THIS MEAN THAT PATROL 24, SQUAD 36, AND THE RECON PLANE DISAPPEARED LIKE THIS TOO?
OHH! THE BROKEN AIRCRAFT HAS DISSOLVED ...!

HUH!?
IT'S THE SPHINX! AND IT'S MADE OUT OF METAL!

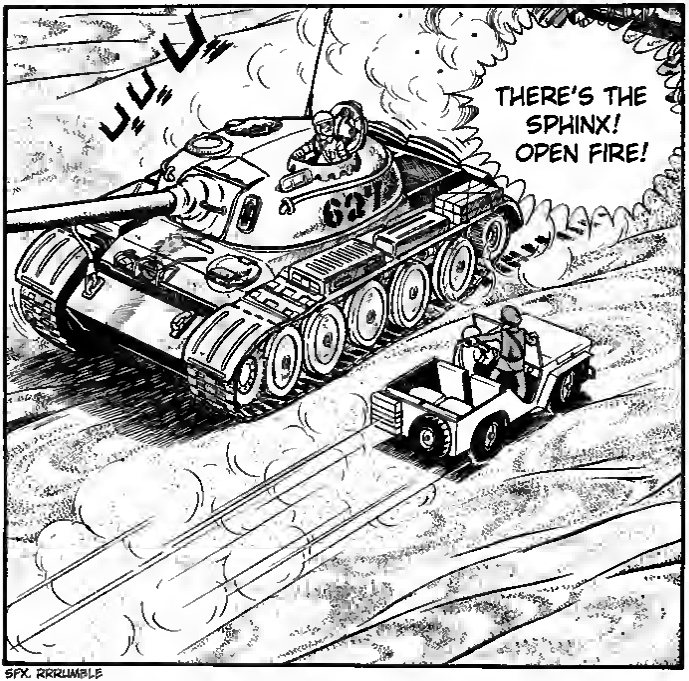

SFX. STOMP STOMP


SFX. STOMP STOMP

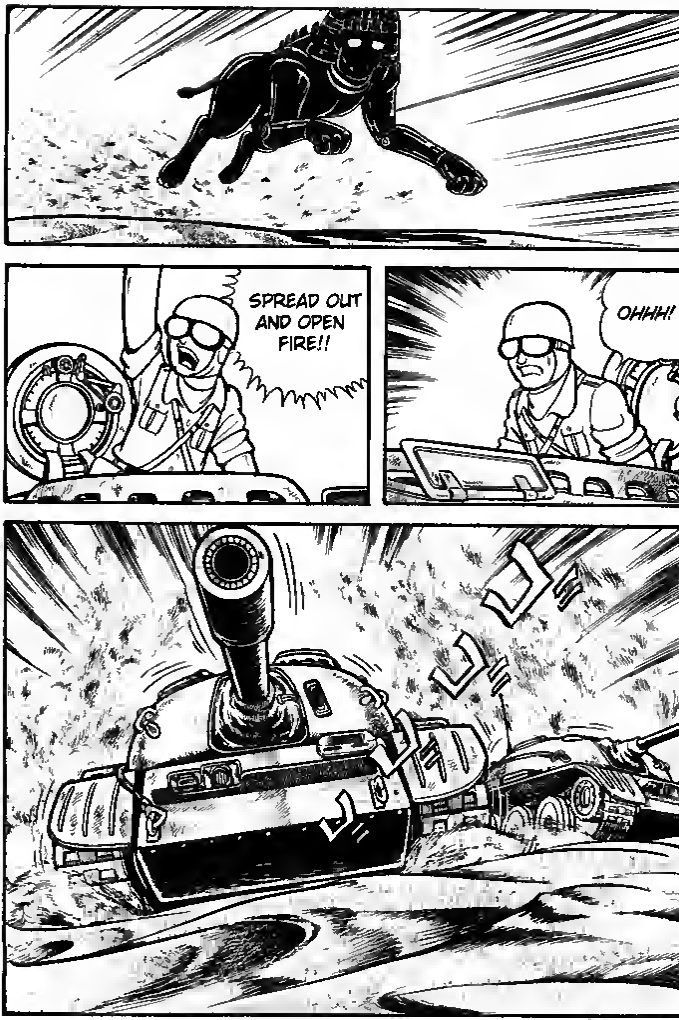
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WAH! IT'S COMING THIS WAY!



SFX. RRRUMBLE



SFX. RRRUMBLE


SPREAD OUT AND OPEN FIRE!!
OHHH!
SFX. RRRRUMBLE

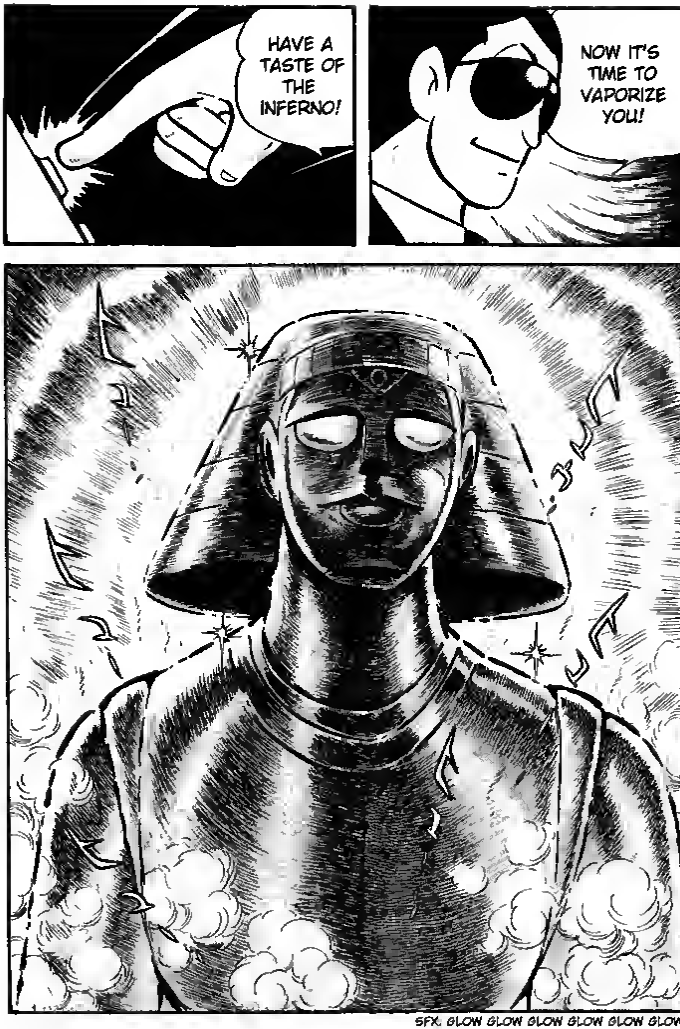
SFX. KA-BOOOM
SFX. KA-BOOOM
SFX. BOOOM / KA-BOOOM!
CONTINUE FIRE!
WE'RE HITTING IT, BUT IT'S NOT EVEN BUDGING!

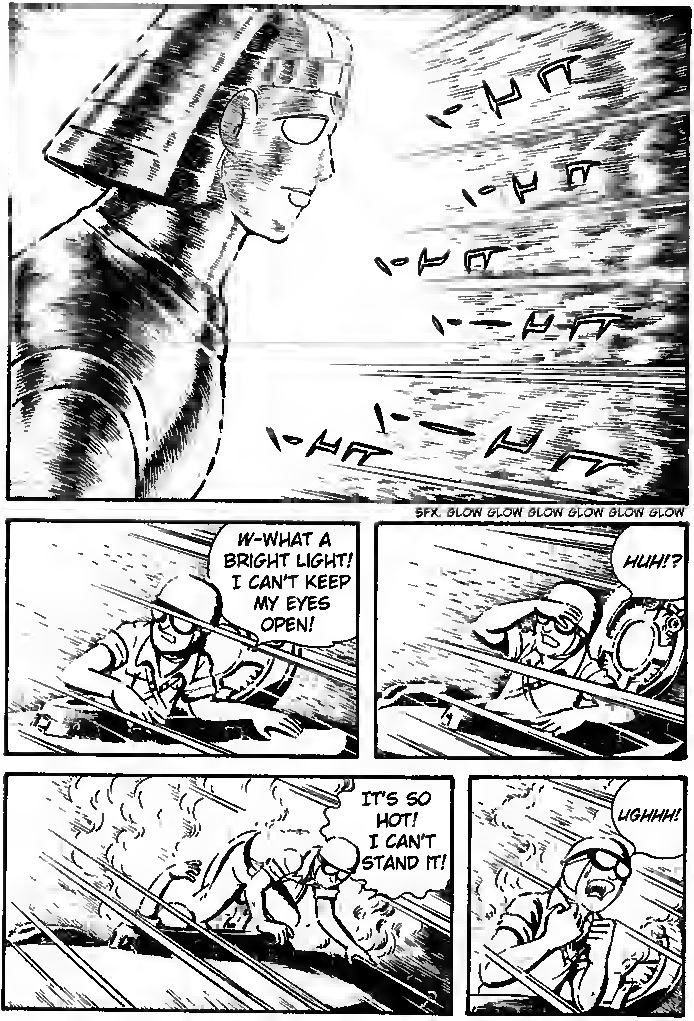
SFX. KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM

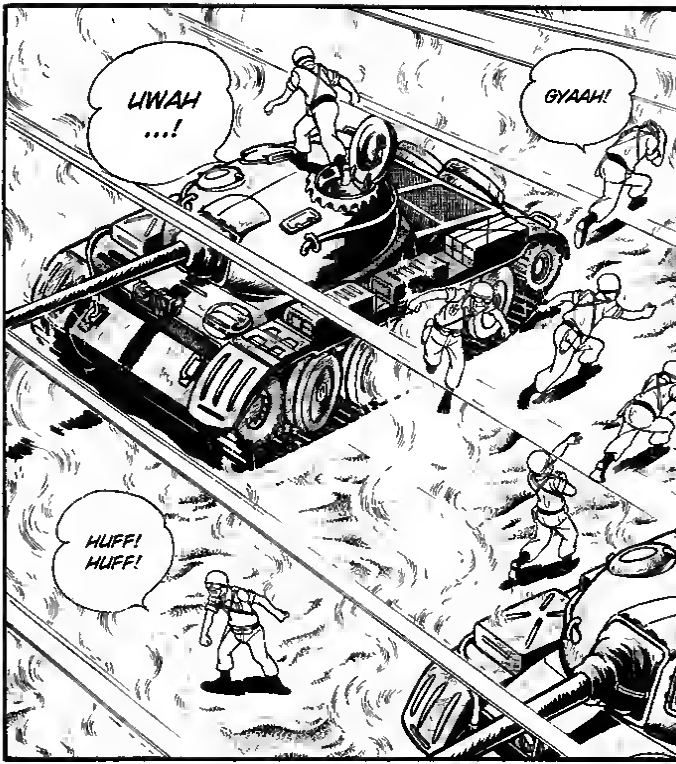
SFX. WHOOOSH

SFX. KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM

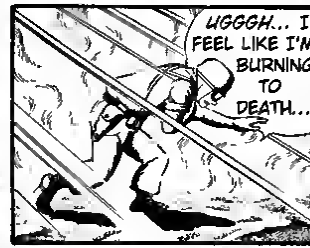
HEH HEH... YOUR WEAPONS CAN'T DO A THING AGAINST THE SPHINX!
IT CAN MELT STEEL, BURN TREES AND GRASS .. EVEN PEOPLE!
THAT'S THE SAME TEMPERATURE AS THE SURFACE OF THE SUN!
THE SPHINX CAN EMIT HEAT UP TO 6000 DEGREES!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING ON THIS PLANET THAT CAN STAND UP AGAINST THE SPHINX, AND THAT'S GAIA!

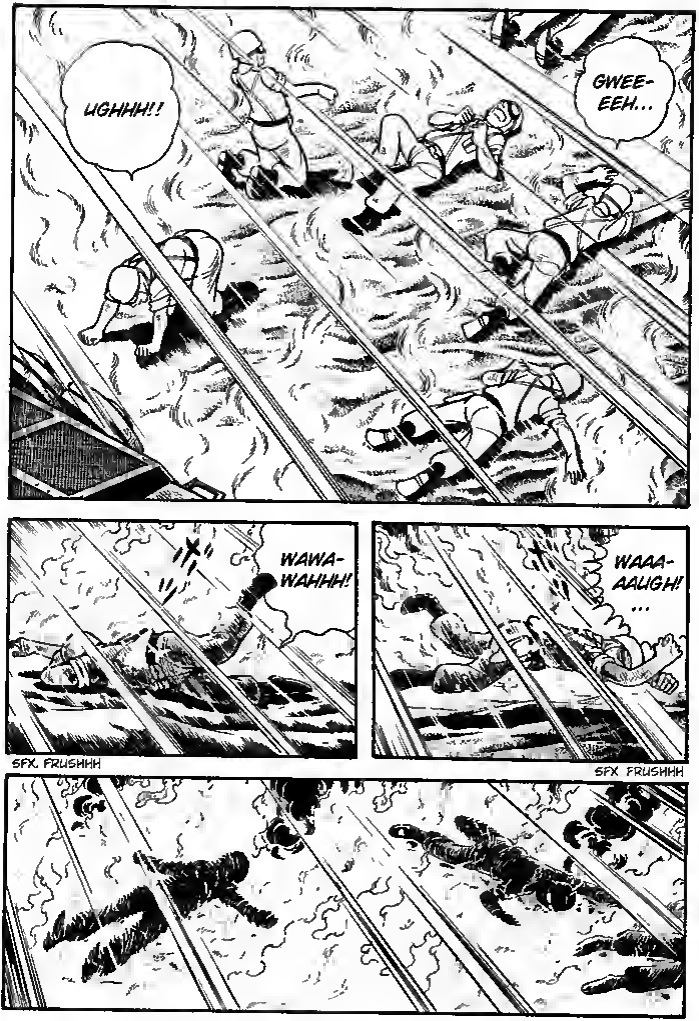

HAVE A TASTE OF THE INFERNO!
NOW IT'S TIME TO VAPORIZE YOU!
SFX. GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW

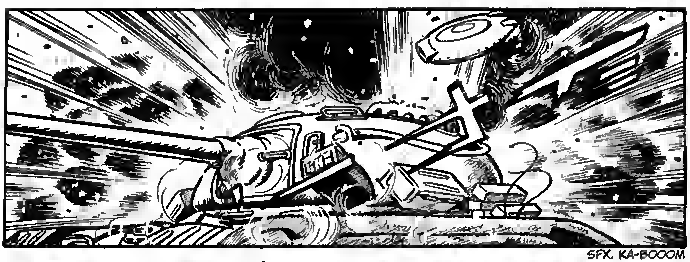

SFX. GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW
W-WHAT A BRIGHT LIGHT! I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN!
HUH!?
IT'S SO HOT! I CAN'T STAND IT!
UGHHH!

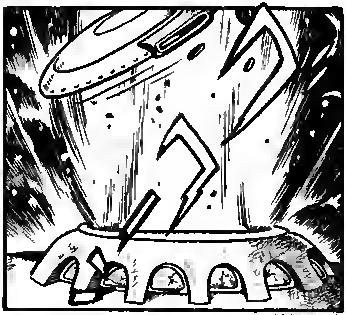

UWAH ...!
GYAAH!
HUFF! HUFF!

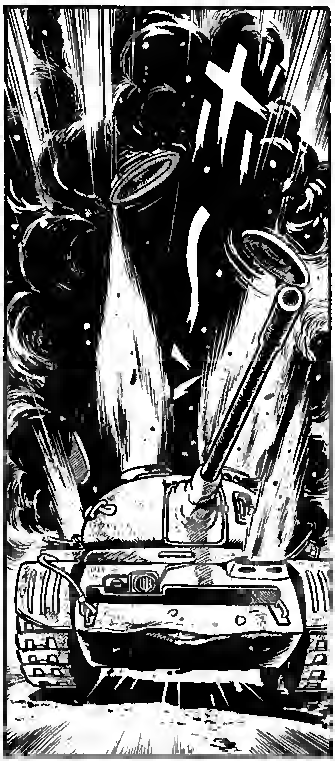
SFX. SLAM!


UGGGH... I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING TO DEATH...

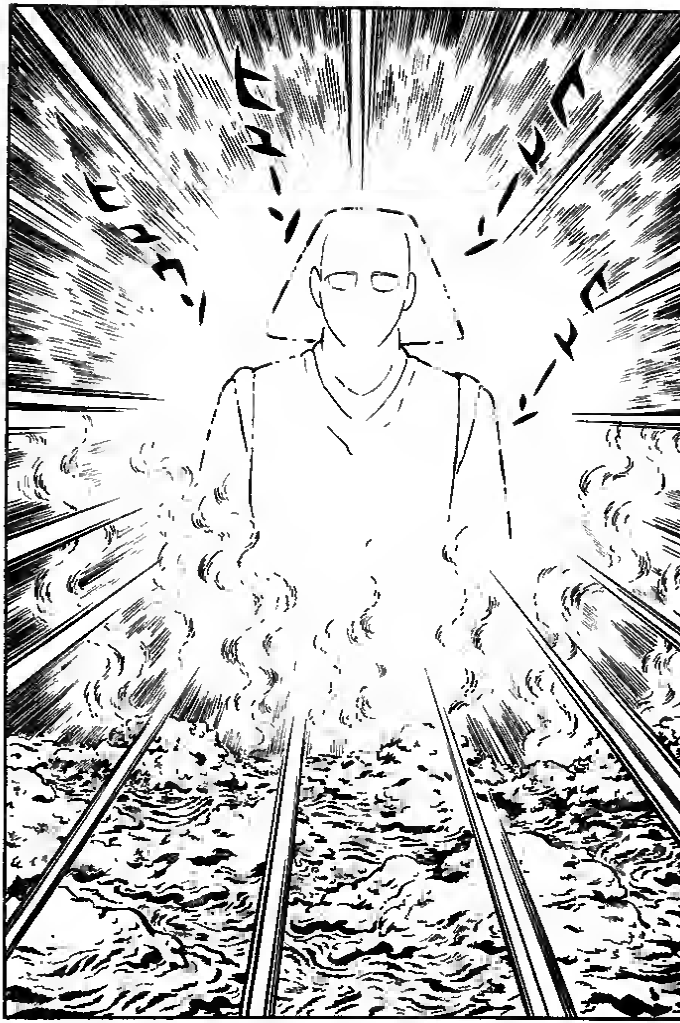

UGHHH!!
GWEE-EEH...
WAWA-WAHHH!
SFX. FRUSHHH
WAAA-AALIGH!
...
SFX FRUSHHH


SFX. KA-BOOOM

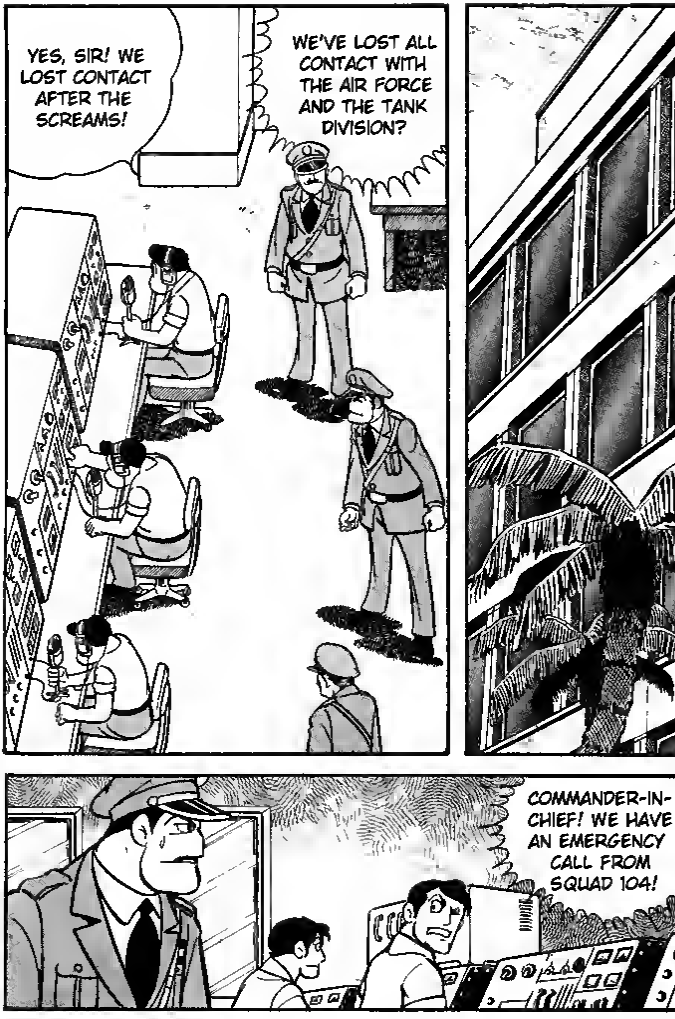

SFX. BANG!


SFX. BOOOOOM!

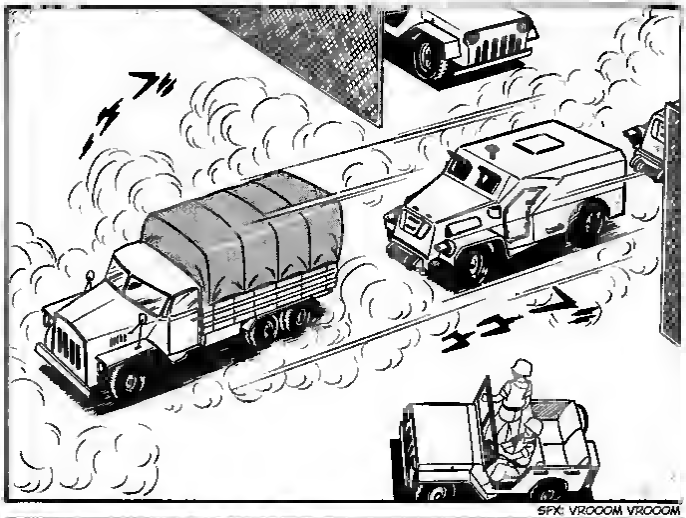
SFX. GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW
SFX. FRRRUMP
SFX. DRIP



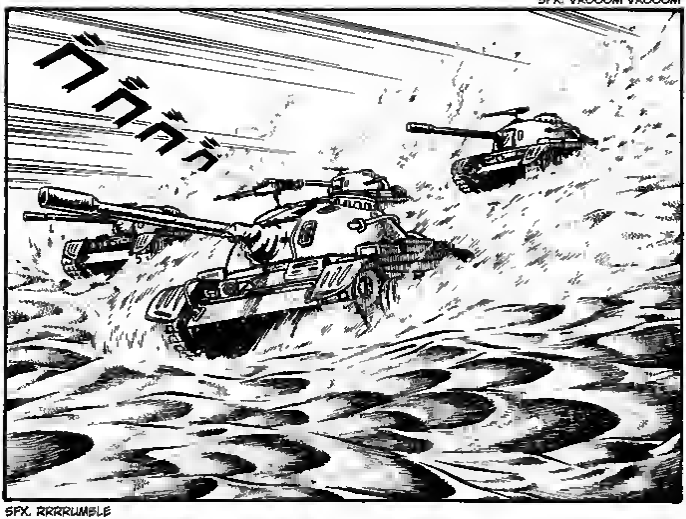
SFX. GLOW GLOW GLOW GLOW


YES, SIR! WE LOST CONTACT AFTER THE SCREAMS!
WE'VE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH THE AIR FORCE AND THE TANK DIVISION?
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY CALL FROM SQUAD 104!

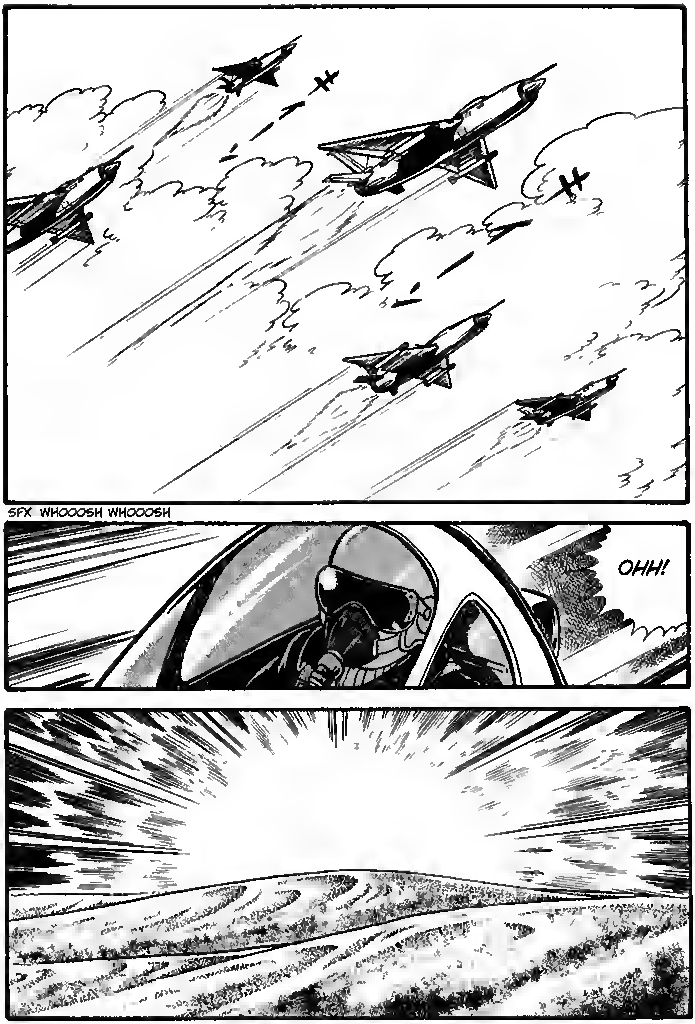
GYAAH ...!
THERE'S A BALL OF LIGHT APPROACHING! AND IT'S ABNORMALLY HOT!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S HAPPENING!?
WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY A BALL OF LIGHT!?
IT'S CUT OFF... SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING.
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED!? RESPOND!
ALRIGHT! WE'RE ENACTING MARTIAL LAW!!
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF! IF WE EXTRAPOLATE BASED ON WHERE THESE ABNORMAL EVENTS HAPPENED, IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT TOWARDS US!
DISPATCH THE WHOLE ARMY AND HAVE THEM INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE!



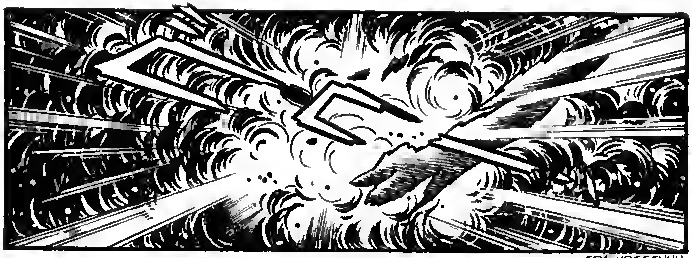
SFX: VROOOM VROOOM

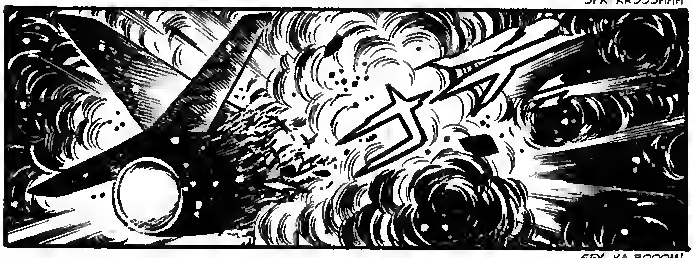


SFX: RRRRUMBLE

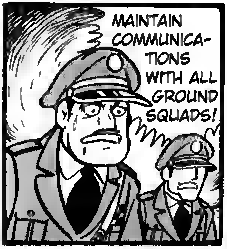

SFX WHOOOSH WHOOOSH
OHH!

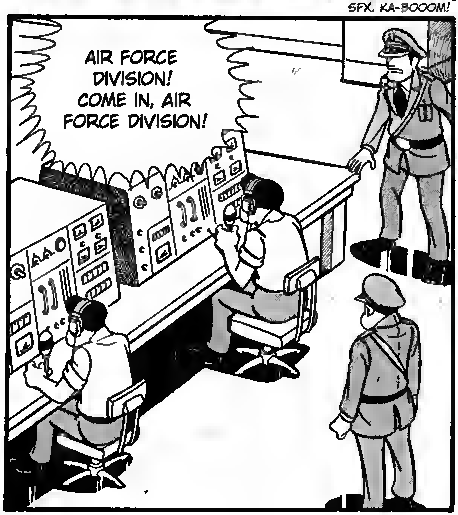
UGH!
WE HAVE VISUAL ON THE BALL OF LIGHT!
WHAT'S GOING ON!? THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING CRAZY! I'M LOSING CONTROL!
IT'S DRAWING US IN! THE TEMPERATURE'S TOO HIGH! IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE SUN!

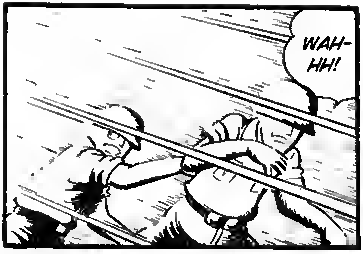

SFX. KRSSSHHH

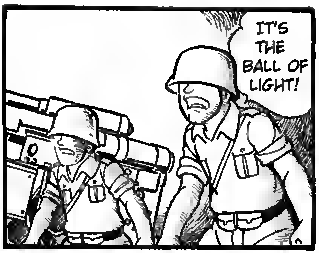

SFX. KA-BOOOM!

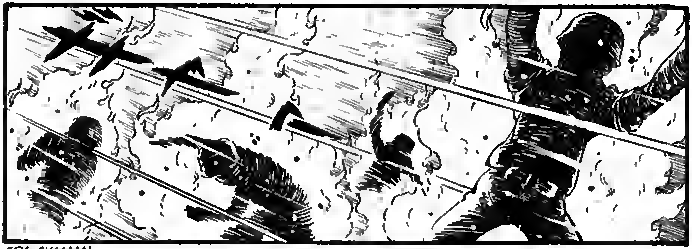
IT'S NO USE! THE SAME THING HAPP-ENED!


MAINTAIN COMMUNICA-TIONS WITH ALL GROUND SQUADS!


AIR FORCE DIVISION! COME IN, AIR FORCE DIVISION!

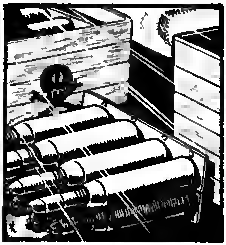


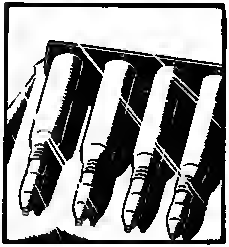




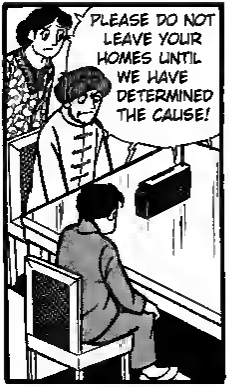
SFX. GYAAAAA!

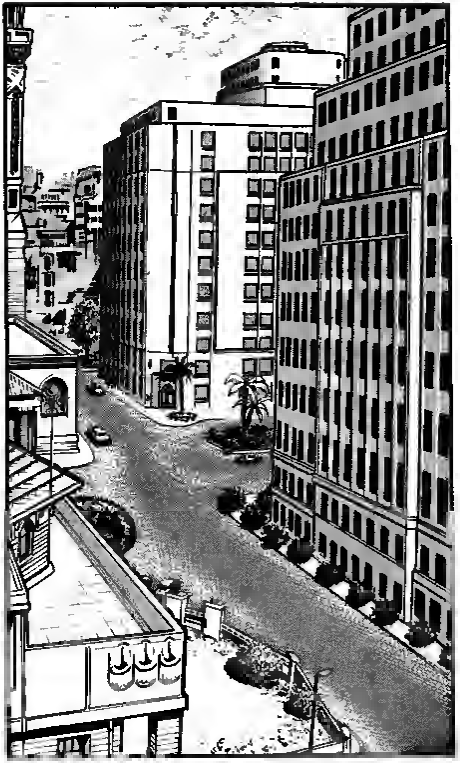
SFX. BOOOM BOOOM BOOOM

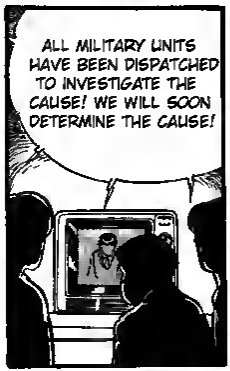


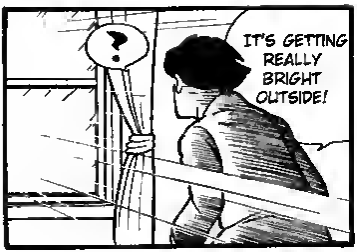


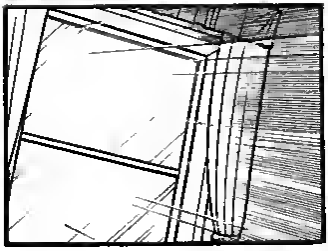
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF! THEY'RE ALL CUTTING OFF AFTER SAYING THEY'VE DISCOVERED THE BALL OF LIGHT!
HELLO! HELLO!
IF IT KEEPS UP THIS SPEED, IT'LL ARRIVE HERE IN TEN MINUTES!
AND IT'S ADVANCING AT BREAKNECK SPEED!


PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOMES UNTIL WE HAVE DETERMINED THE CAUSE!

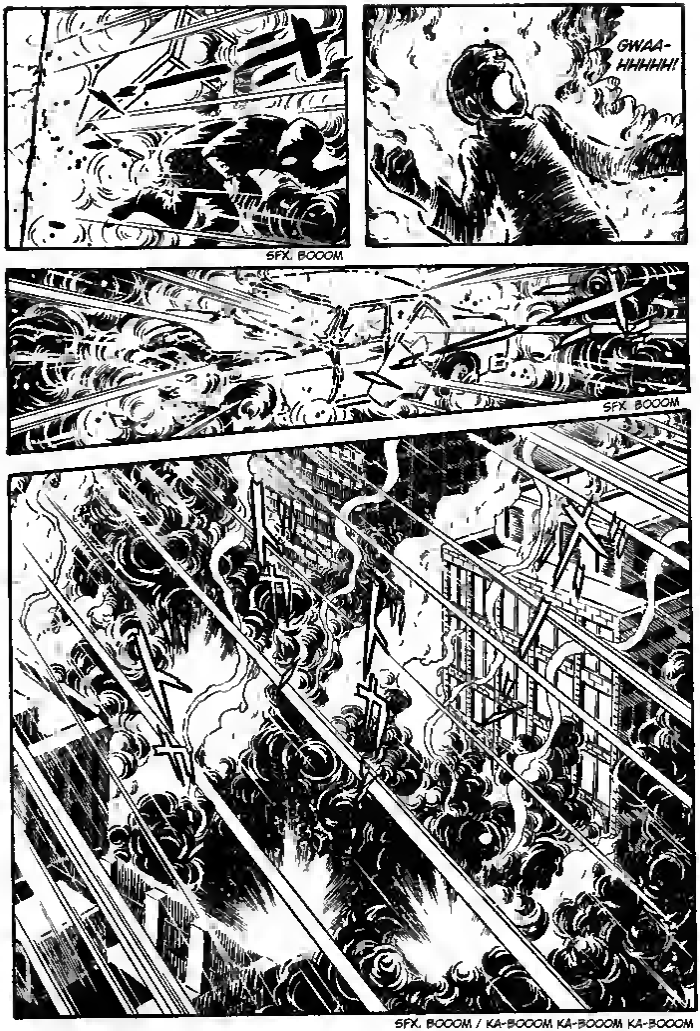



ALL MILITARY UNITS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE! WE WILL SOON DETERMINE THE CAUSE!


?
IT'S GETTING REALLY BRIGHT OUTSIDE!

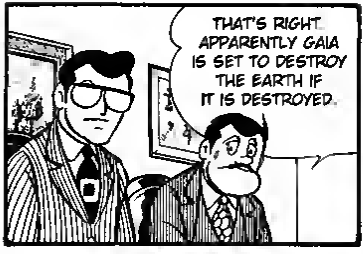


HUH!?
OH!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
PANT PANT...
AHHH!
WAHHH!


GWAA-HHHHH!
SFX. BOOOM
SFX. BOOOM
SFX. BOOOM / KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM KA-BOOOM

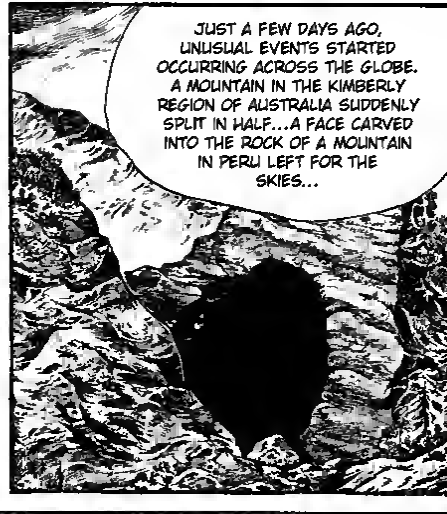
TO THE RUINS OF EGYPT

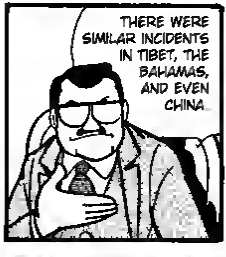
TOKYO
HMM... THESE CERTAINLY AREN'T METALS YOU'D FIND ANYWHERE ON EARTH.
ABSOLUTELY. WE ANALYZED IT SEVERAL TIMES, BUT THE TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE THIS METAL ISN'T FOUND ANYWHERE ON EARTH!

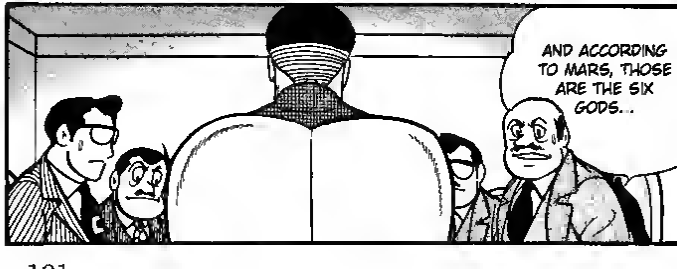

THAT'S RIGHT. APPARENTLY GAIA IS SET TO DESTROY THE EARTH IF IT IS DESTROYED.

SO, THESE SO-CALLED SIX GODS WANT TO DESTROY GAIA!?

AND THE SPHINX DISAPPEARED IN EGYPT...

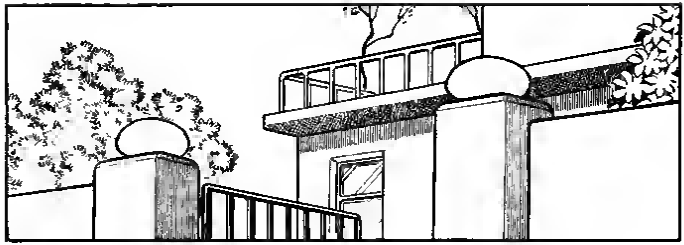

JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, UNUSUAL EVENTS STARTED OCCURRING ACROSS THE GLOBE. A MOUNTAIN IN THE KIMBERLY REGION OF AUSTRALIA SUDDENLY SPLIT IN HALF...A FACE CARVED INTO THE ROCK OF A MOUNTAIN IN PERU LEFT FOR THE SKIES...

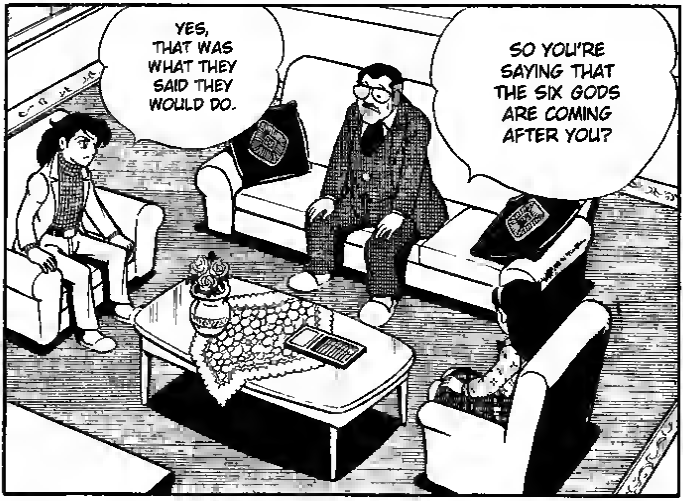

THERE WERE SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN TIBET, THE BAHAMAS, AND EVEN CHINA.


AND ACCORDING TO MARS, THOSE ARE THE SIX GODS..

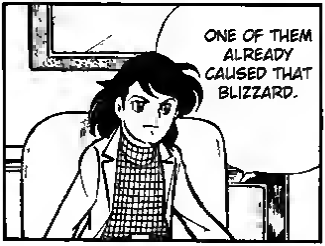
WE MUST NOT ANNOUNCE THIS UNTIL WE'VE INVESTIGATED IT FURTHER!
IF THIS IS TRUE, IT WOULD SPELL DISASTER. BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WE CAN TRUST HIM.
BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE TIME TO INVESTIGATE ...!
SUCH NEWS WOULD ONLY THROW SOCIETY INTO PANIC!
WHAT ...!?
PSST... PSST.. PSST..
EGYPT HAS BEEN RUINED!?
SFX. CLACK

THAT'S A COUNTRY THE BOY SAID ONE OF THE SIX GODS WAS IN!
IT APPEARED TO HAPPEN IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
A PASSENGER PLANE FLYING ABOVE WITNESSED IT.
ALRIGHT! YOU SUMMON THE AMBASSADORS OF EACH COUNTRY!
...
...
...
BUT BEFORE THAT...
I WILL GO MEET WITH MARS!




YES, THAT WAS WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD DO.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE SIX GODS ARE COMING AFTER YOU?

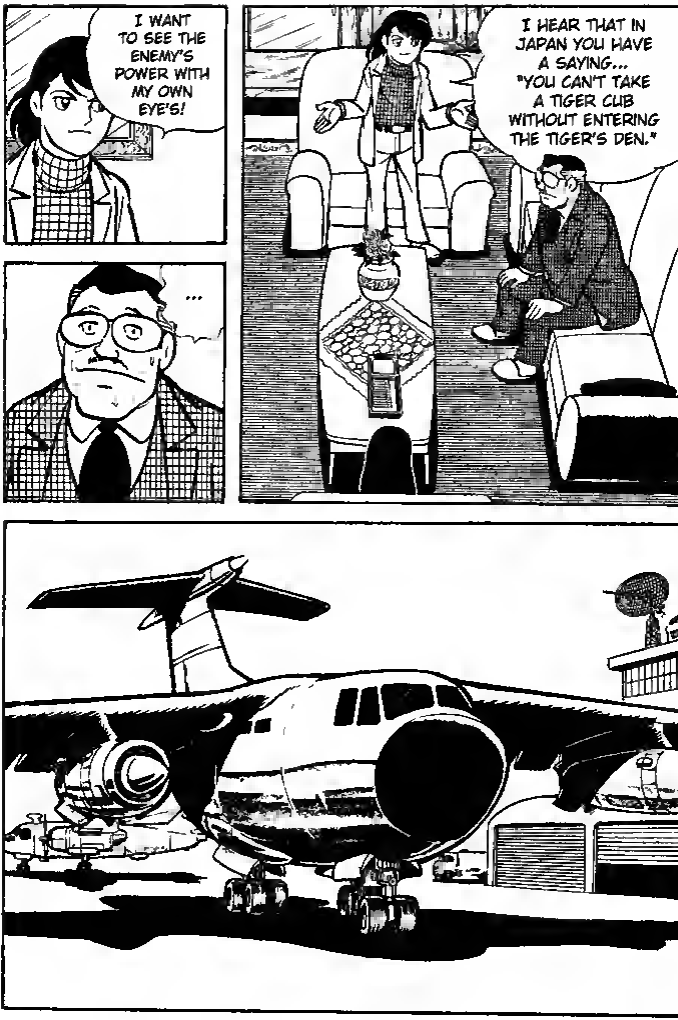
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHEN THE REST WILL SHOW UP...

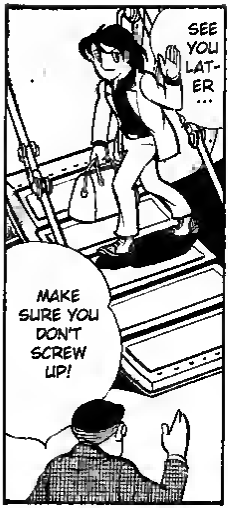

ONE OF THEM ALREADY CAUSED THAT BLIZZARD.

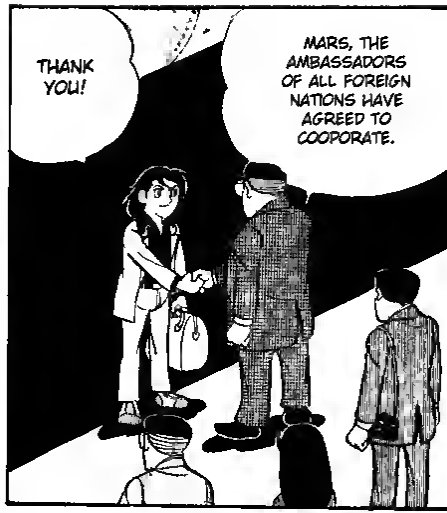
BUT IF THAT BLIZZARD IS ANY INDICATION, IT WOULD BE SURE TO CAUSE MAJOR PANIC.
I CAN'T TELL YOU, SINCE I DON'T KNOW THEIR POWERS.
BUT WHAT WOULD BECOME OF JAPAN IF THEY CAME HERE!?
ALL OF THE ANSWERS ARE HIDDEN ON THE ISLAND OF AKINOSHIMA.
IF I COULD JUST INVESTIGATE THE PLACE WHERE I WAS PROGRAMMED ...
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU SAID THAT GAIA WILL DETONATE IF YOU DIE... DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO AVOID THAT?
THEN I COULD CLEARLY KNOW OF THE SIX GODS' AND GAIA'S POWERS. THAT WOULD GIVE ME A WAY TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM...

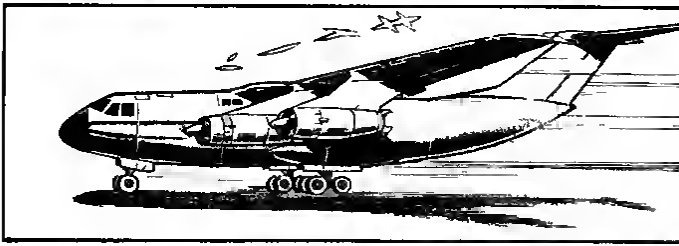
WORD IS, EGYPT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY LEVELED.
LISTEN ...
THEY HAVEN'T YET BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE. DO YOU THINK ONE OF THE SIX GODS MIGHT HAVE DONE IT?
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
IF IT WAS ATOMIC BOMBS, EVERY NATION ON EARTH WOULD KNOW!
ARE THERE ANY OTHER WEAPONS ON EARTH THAT POWERFUL ...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMETHING THAT POWERFUL ATTACKED JAPAN? OUR NATION WOULD BE DONE FOR!

WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S CAUSING A RIOT IN EGYPT?
THAT SAID, EVEN IF WE TRANSFER YOU SOMEWHERE ELSE, THE WORLD WOULD END IF YOU DIED.. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
PERHAPS HE'S LURING ME OUT SINCE HE CAN'T COME TO JAPAN ...?
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
YOU DON'T NEED TO PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER ...
MR SECRETARY, TAKE ME TO EGYPT!
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WHERE!
NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT!
IF I STAY PUT, THEY'LL JUST ATTACK HERE INSTEAD!

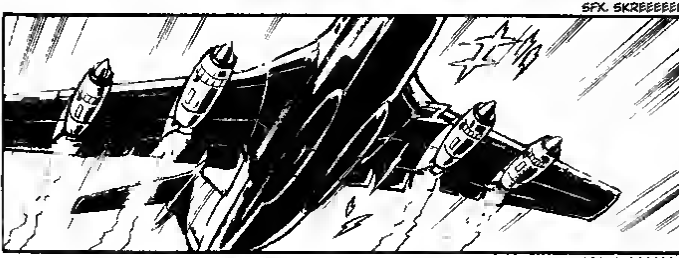

I WANT TO SEE THE ENEMY'S POWER WITH MY OWN EYE'S!
I HEAR THAT IN JAPAN YOU HAVE A SAYING... "YOU CAN'T TAKE A TIGER CUB WITHOUT ENTERING THE TIGER'S DEN."
...



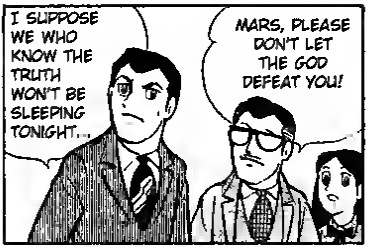




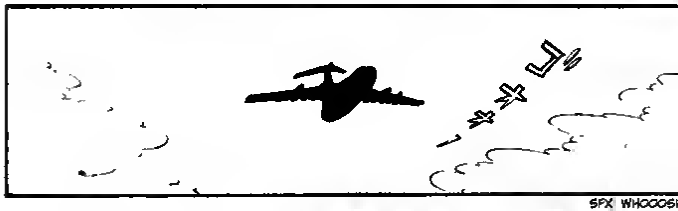
SFX. SKREEEEEK



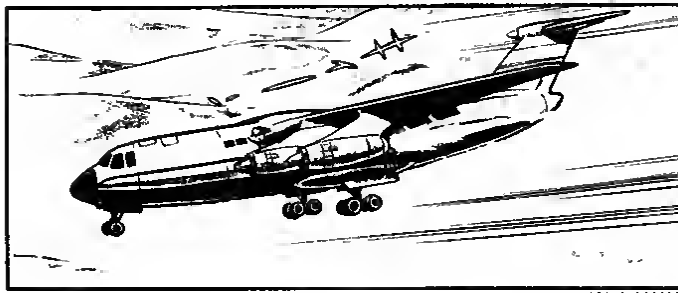
SFX. SKREEEEEK


I SUPPOSE WE WHO KNOW THE TRUTH WON'T BE SLEEPING TONIGHT...
MARS, PLEASE DON'T LET THE GOD DEFEAT YOU!

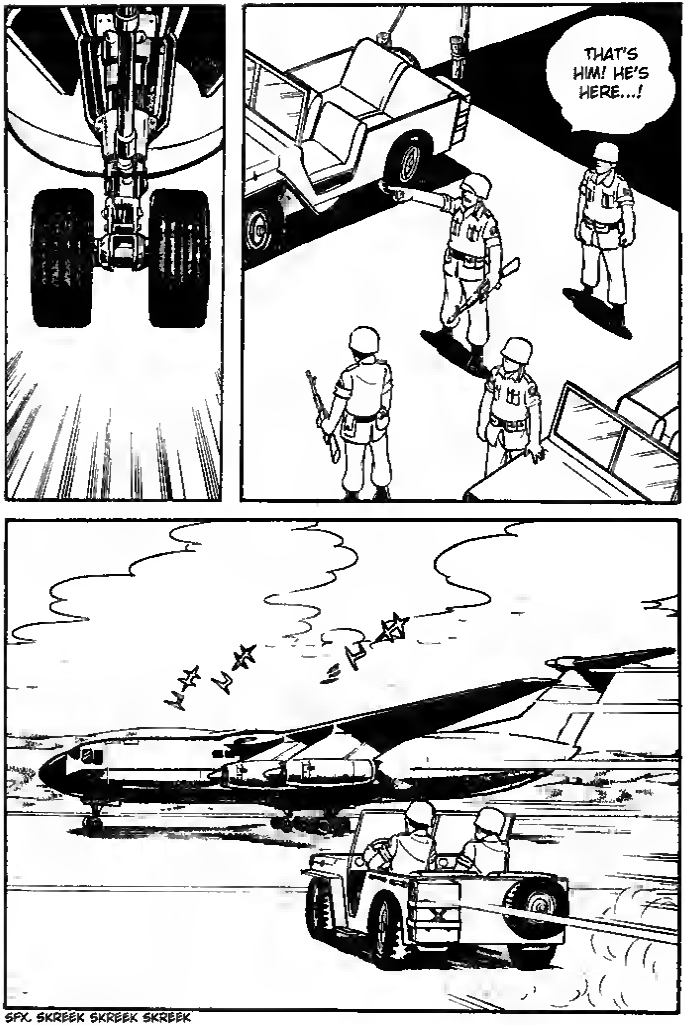
SFX WHOOOSH

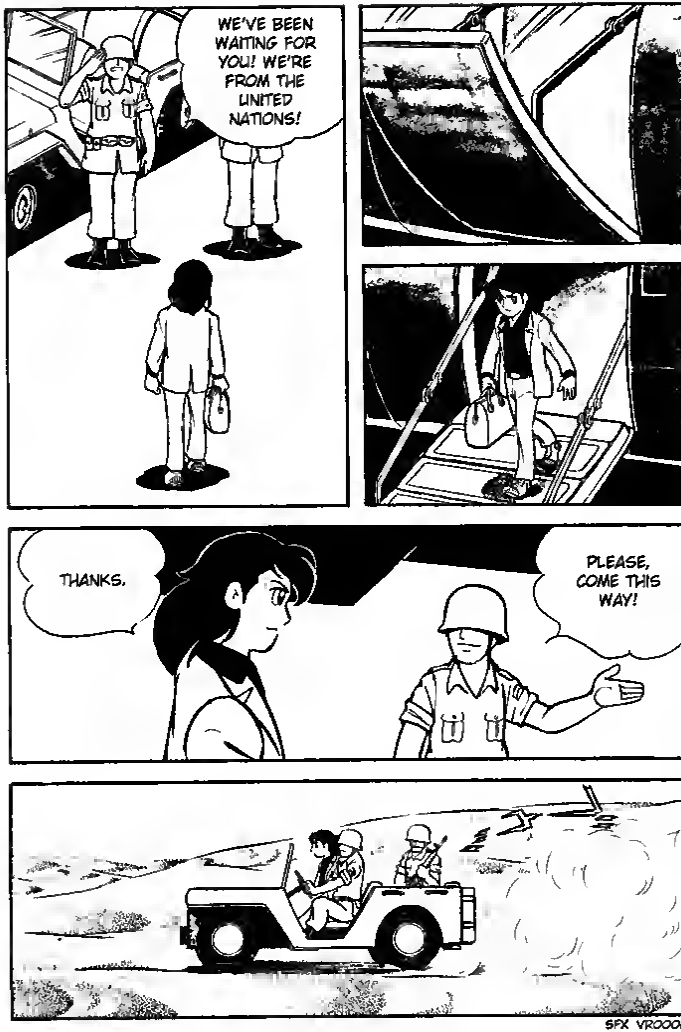


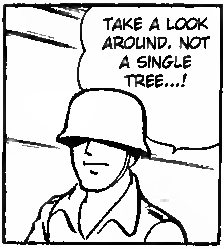
SFX: WHOOOSH

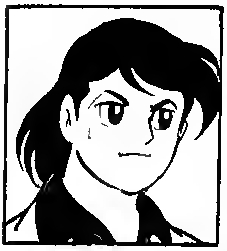


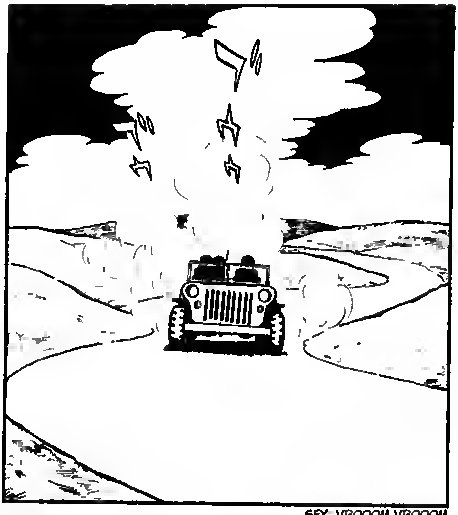
SFX: SKREEEEEK


THAT'S HIM! HE'S HERE...!
SFX. SKREEK SKREEK SKREEK

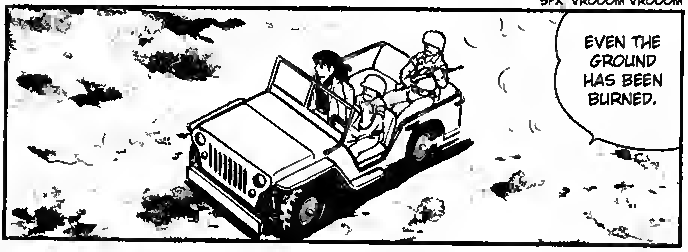

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! WE'RE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS!
THANKS.
PLEASE, COME THIS WAY!
SFX VROOOM

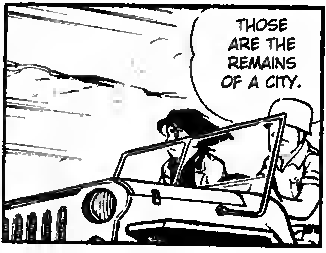


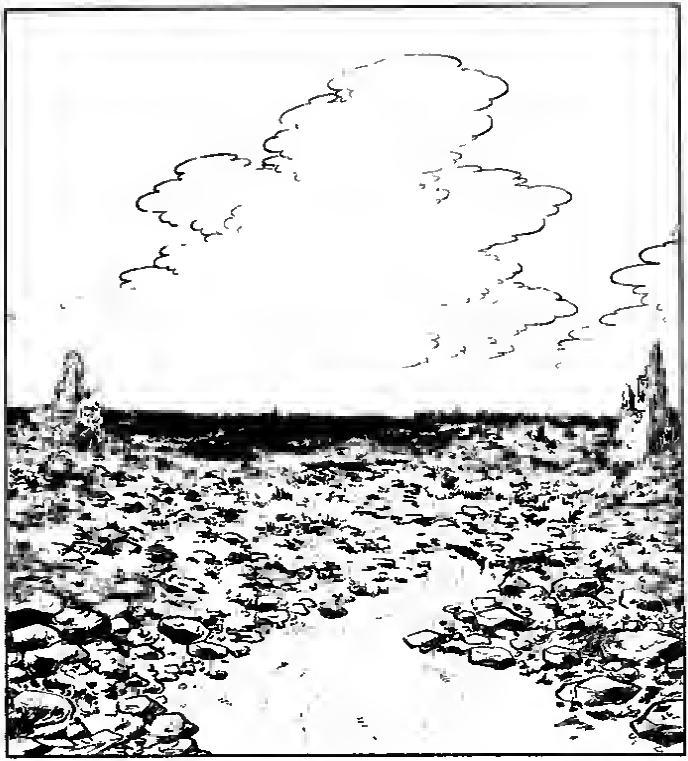




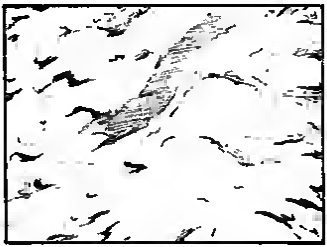
SFX VROOOM VROOOM



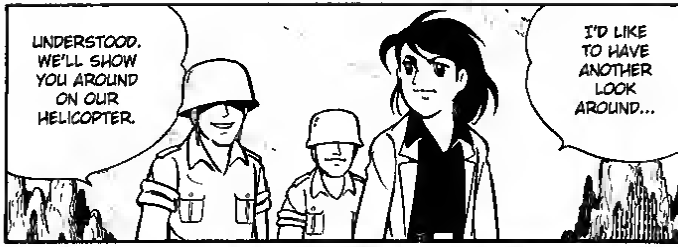


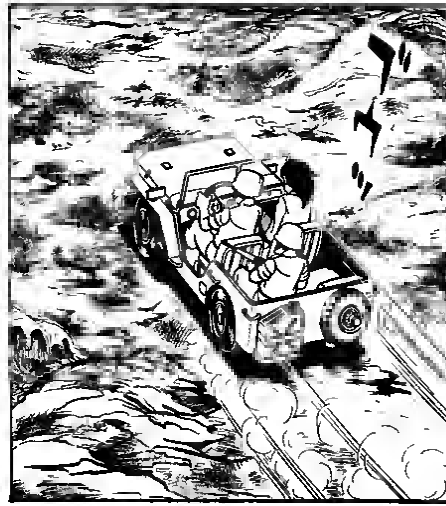


ALL OF EGYPT'S BEEN REDUCED TO ASHES...

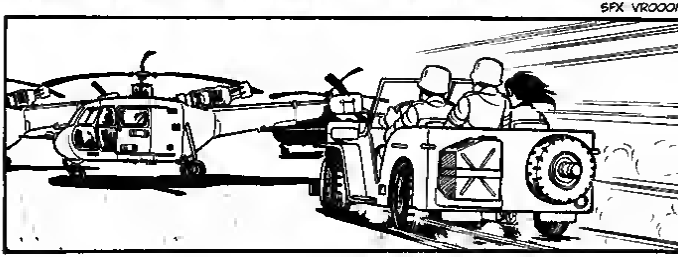


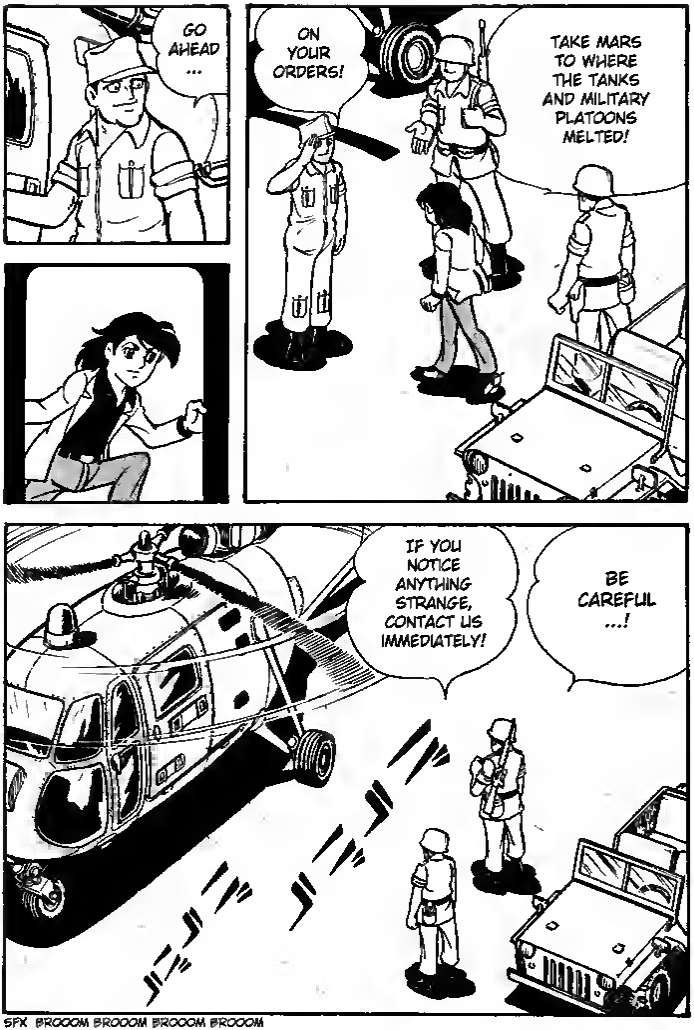
IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE HARDENED LAVA...
THIS MEANS THEY WERE ATTACKED BY AN EXTREME HEAT SOURCE!
BUT WE CAN'T DETECT ANY RADIATION.
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, EVERYTHING'S BEEN MELTED AWAY!
5000 TO 6000 DEGREES!
THE RESEARCHER CONCLUDED THAT IT HAD TO BE AROUND 5000 TO 6000 DEGREES!
SO NOW I HAVE TO FIGHT SOMETHING AS HOT AS THE SUN ITSELF...

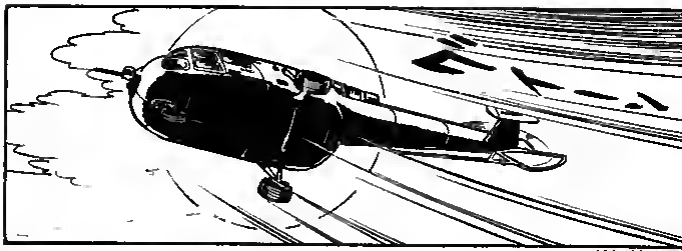

UNDERSTOOD. WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND ON OUR HELICOPTER.
I'D LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AROUND...



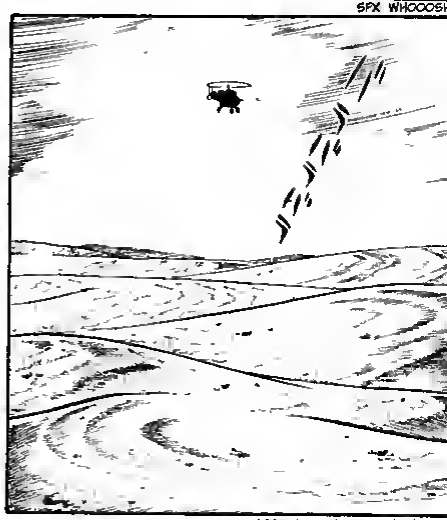
SFX VROOOM



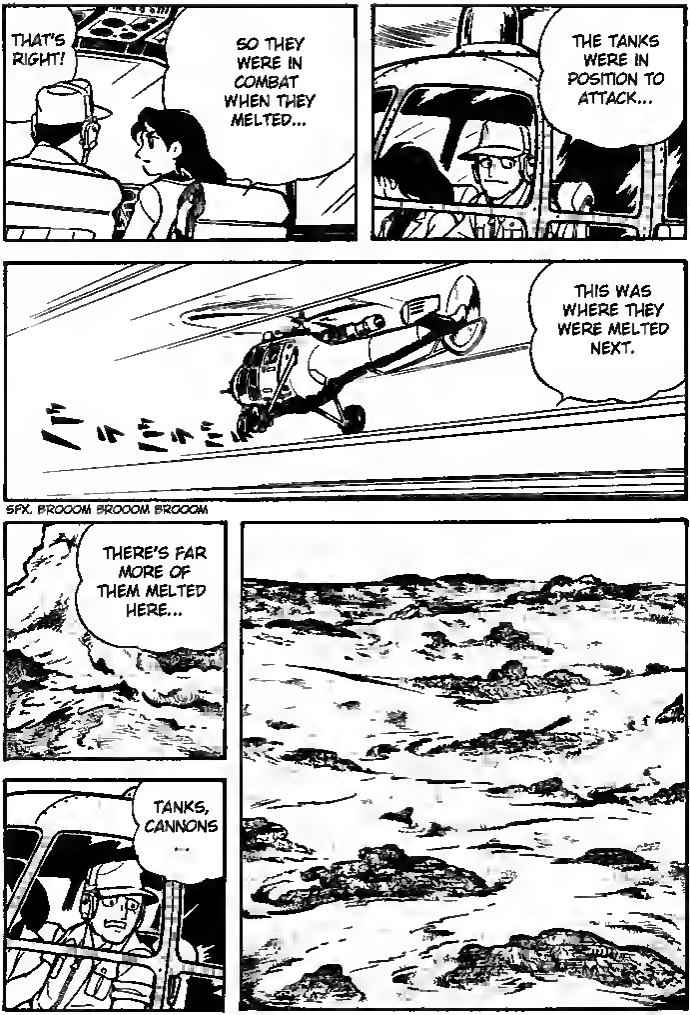

GO AHEAD ...
ON YOUR ORDERS!
TAKE MARS TO WHERE THE TANKS AND MILITARY PLATOONS MELTED!
IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING STRANGE, CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY!
BE CAREFUL ...!
SFX BROOOM BROOOM BROOOM BROOOM

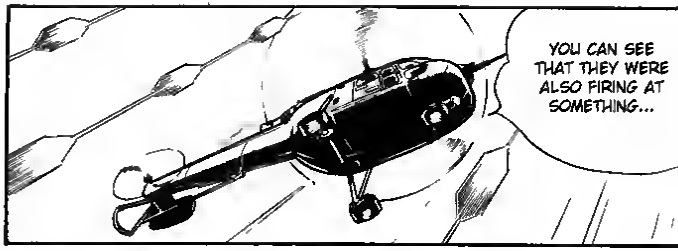


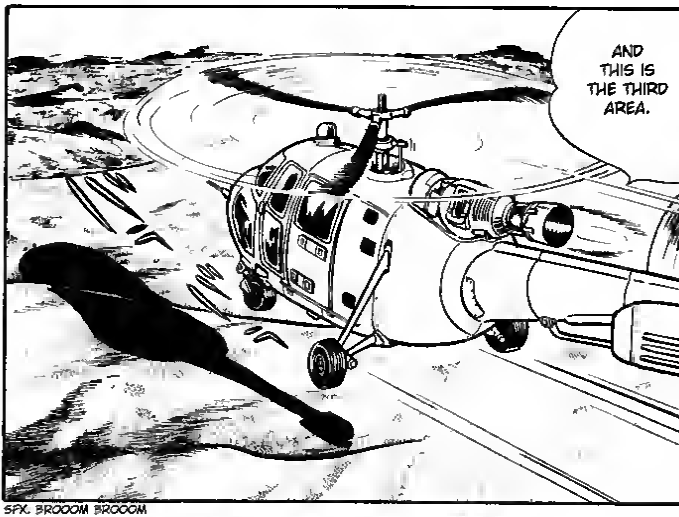
SFX: WHOOOSH



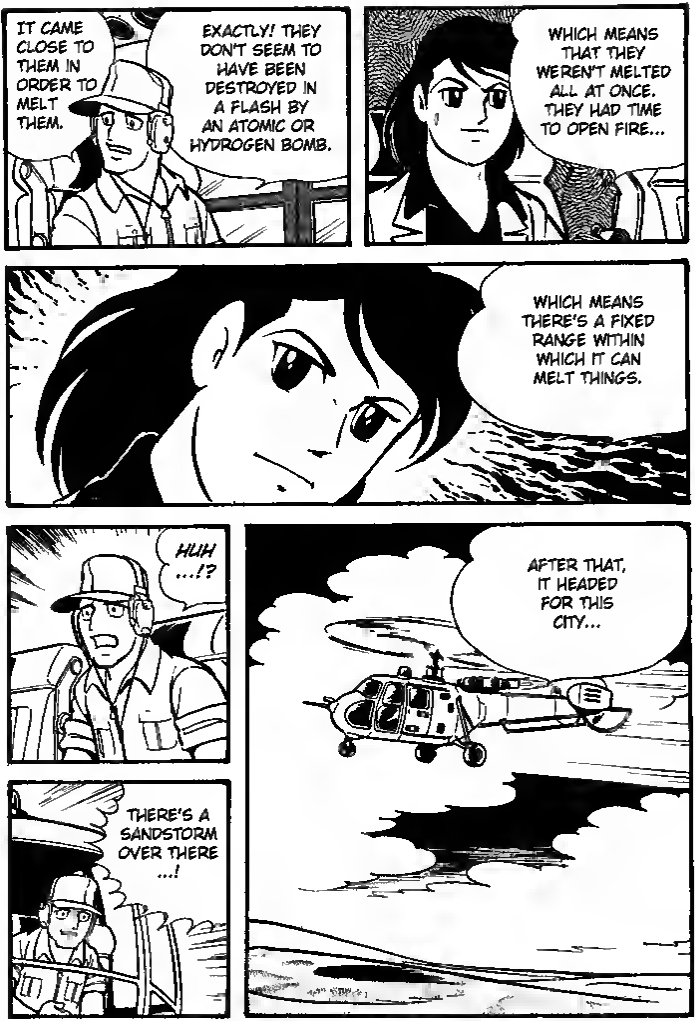
SFX: BROOOM BROOOM BROOOM


THAT'S RIGHT!
SO THEY WERE IN COMBAT WHEN THEY MELTED...
THE TANKS WERE IN POSITION TO ATTACK...
THIS WAS WHERE THEY WERE MELTED NEXT.
SFX. BROOOM BROOOM BROOOM
THERE'S FAR MORE OF THEM MELTED HERE...
TANKS, CANNONS ...





SFX. BROOOM BROOOM

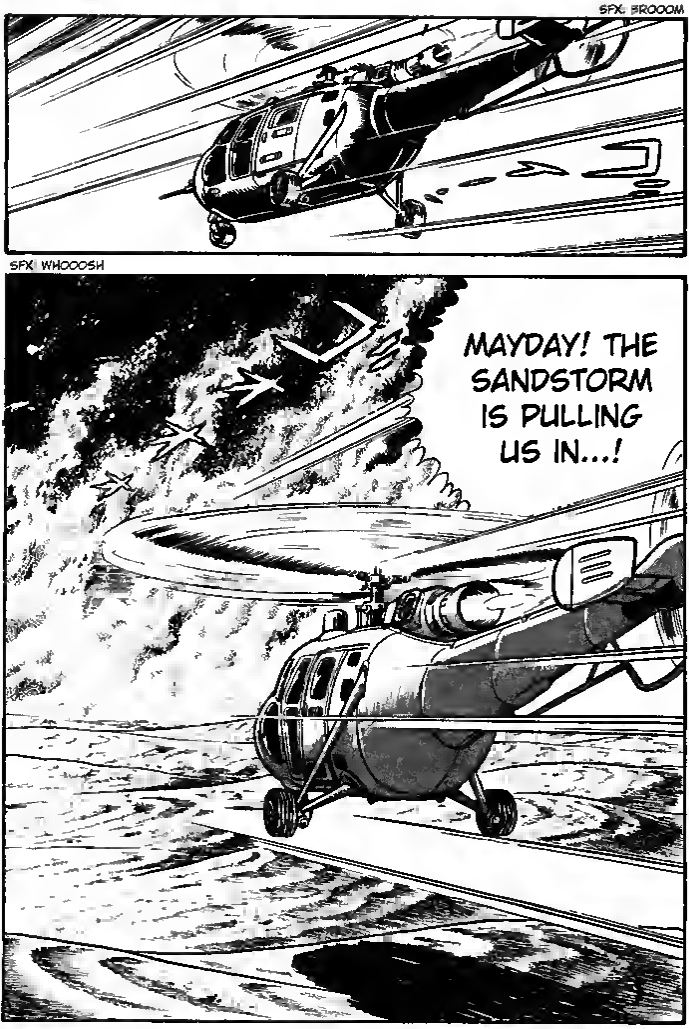

IT CAME CLOSE TO THEM IN ORDER TO MELT THEM.
EXACTLY! THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN A FLASH BY AN ATOMIC OR HYDROGEN BOMB.
WHICH MEANS THAT THEY WEREN'T MELTED ALL AT ONCE. THEY HAD TIME TO OPEN FIRE...
WHICH MEANS THERE'S A FIXED RANGE WITHIN WHICH IT CAN MELT THINGS.
HUH ...!?
AFTER THAT, IT HEADED FOR THIS CITY...
THERE'S A SANDSTORM OVER THERE ...!

SFX. BROOOM BROOOM

SFX. SPLASHHH

SFX: SPLASHHH
ENLARGE THE IMAGE OF THAT HELICOPTER ...!
IT'S MARS!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MARS!
SO MARS HAS FINALLY COME!!
SFX WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR
?
HUH ...!?
THE CONTROLS AREN'T WORKING, EITHER!
WHAT'S GOING ON!? THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING HAYWIRE!


SFX: BROOOM
SFX: WHOOOSH
MAYDAY! THE SANDSTORM IS PULLING US IN...!

MARS

Volume 2

MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA

TRANSLATION: KATATONIA
TRANSLATION CHECK: SYSTEMATIC-CHAOS
CLEANER: WRIGHT
EDITORS: PATRICK
PARALOCK
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